

# RECREATION

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## Recreational Music

By Sigmund Spaeth

## Dover Community School

By N. L. Engelhardt

## A "Tonic" for the Craft Shop

By Robert L. Horney

## Recreation and the National Morale

By Hon. Paul V. McNutt

## Bicycling—the Sport That Came Back!

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# RECREATION

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## No Ivory Tower

ONE refuge in times of trouble and anxiety is to turn back to the good and simple things which lie at the heart of normal human life. In any society these will be the things that make life worth living. Indeed, they are the things that account for the persistence of our species under the old terrors of the jungle, of darkness, of starvation. They are individual things, individually experienced, and in that way an answer to the mass manias around us.

We ought to feel a strengthening of the ties of affection for our families and our friends—for they make a charmed circle within which the hearth fire glows and into which neither fear nor hate can penetrate.

We ought to see with clearer eyes the beauty and meaning of human faces, the wonder of the pageantry of the daily work and play, the majestic pattern of the coming and going of the seasons, the glory of sunlight over a city or a meadow or a forest or a coast, of the roar of a city, of the humming of insects in the sleepy twilight in the country.

We may well shrink from what we read in print, see in the news reels, hear over the radio. But shrinking is a negative response. We need a positive reaffirmation of what life is and can be. We need a new, bright sense of its glory and significance, and of the preciousness of the least of the human vessels into which it has been poured.

The spirit of freedom is not in laws and institutions alone—nor even chiefly. It is expressed in the expansion of the personal experience, in an individual's rather than a nation's room to grow, in the unlocking of human powers and human opportunities. No disaster can black out a nation which lives in that spirit.

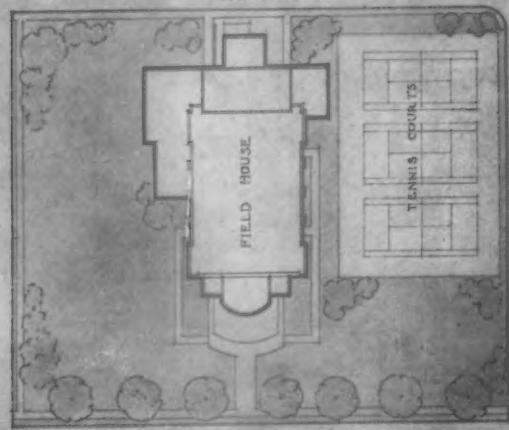
We cannot climb an ivory tower and cultivate our souls in indifference to the dark tumult which rises on every side. But we can build in a democracy, in liberty, in peace, a kind of life that shall seem to all men desirable, and which, whatever the fate of liberty and men's hopes elsewhere, shall not be forgotten.

A factory humming with productive activity, a tired father going home to a family which welcomes him, a mother singing her baby to sleep, two lovers walking into the sunset, the smoke of a wood fire, the smell of ripening apples, the odor of good cooking, the tranquility after storm in a Beethoven symphony, a policeman diving into the river to rescue a drowning man, a fireman entering a tottering burning building, a craftsman doing his work in love of his materials and his tools, the friendly face swimming out of the crowd, the light falling slantwise past the glowing cornices of great buildings, love and work and sacrifice and play—of these are the things that matter.

Sometimes in history they have had to be fought for. But first they have to be lived for.

From *The New York Times*, September 24, 1939. Used by permission.

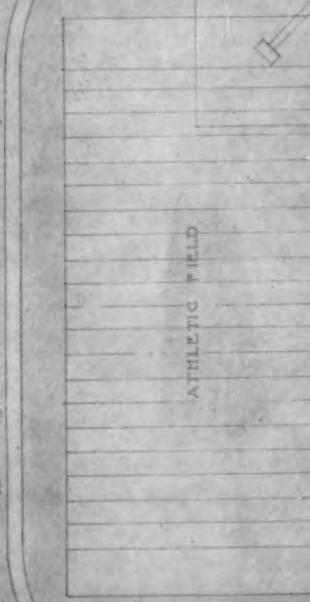
SMITH STREET



FIELD HOUSE

TENNIS COURTS

DRIVE



ATHLETIC FIELD

OPEN AIR THEATRE

ST. JONES RIVER

FLOWER GARDEN

FISH HATCHERY

## PLOT PLAN

SCALE IN FEET

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SOCIAL HALL

PARKING AREA

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

SERVICE DRIVE

CONCEDED PARKING

DOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
DOVER, DELAWARE  
WALTER CARLSON, AIA  
ARCHITECT  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE  
DR. M. BERNARD  
EDUCATIONAL ADVISOR  
R. HILL, DONNE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

KENT STREET

DELAWARE AVENUE

KING STREET

# The Dover Community School

By N. L. ENGELHARDT  
Professor of Education  
Teachers College, Columbia University

In 1937 the citizens of Dover, Delaware, recognized that the three-story school building which housed their elementary and high school pupils was no longer adequate to meet the increasing enrollments. The Board of Education and Superintendent E. Hall Downes applied themselves to the problem of planning the extension of this school plant. Approximately twelve acres were available as a school site, but very limited provision had been made to prepare the site for general outdoor recreation purposes.

In the planning certain assumptions prevailed. A community school serving the needs of adults as well as children was recognized as desirable. Adult formal education, as well as provision for their recreation and leisure, were considered equally fundamental programs to be involved in the planning. The curriculum of the school should follow the immediate needs of children and not prepare remotely only for college entrance. The use of school facilities during the daytime by adults as well as children should be made possible. The school should be a living, throbbing center of human activity meeting community needs as they arose and serving all group as well as individual social needs.

The Dover community school is now a reality. It consists of four building units, as indicated in the diagram (see opposite page), and has a planned utilization for all parts of the school site. The four building units are the high school building, the social hall, the elementary school, and the field house, all integrated under the one plan.

## The Field House

The field house shown in Diagram 2 (see page 540) was designed as a structure apart from the school buildings proper. Here can be held community fairs or state exhibits. Here may be assembled conventions concerned with any of the major problems of community and state life. School exhibits or school exhibitions

The educational and recreational facilities which have been planned for the Dover, Delaware, Community School should offer the inspiration to many communities of this size to plan for school and community integration and for a wide use of school facilities. The use of the plans shown has been made possible through the courtesy of Walter Carlson, A.I.A., Wilmington, Delaware, architect for the project. Dr. Engelhardt served as education adviser in the planning. E. Hall Downes is Superintendent of Schools.

can easily be put on here. A stage of ample dimensions with the needed ancillary spaces affords opportunity

for the drama, musical performances, or even pageants. The field house, which will be open to adults, has provision for many kinds of games including handball, volleyball, basketball, and badminton. A ping-pong room adjoins the main play area. During the school day the gymnasium will be used by the boys. Portable folding bleachers have been provided so that they may be used at the side walls in case of games, or may be arranged at the rear of the auditorium when the stage is being used. This building can be used for convention or assembly purposes during the school day. It is sufficiently remote from the main buildings so that its use will not interfere with the regular school program. Separate heating has been planned. Locker and shower spaces for men and women have been arranged so that they serve the dual purpose of dressing rooms for the stage as well as after-recreation service rooms.

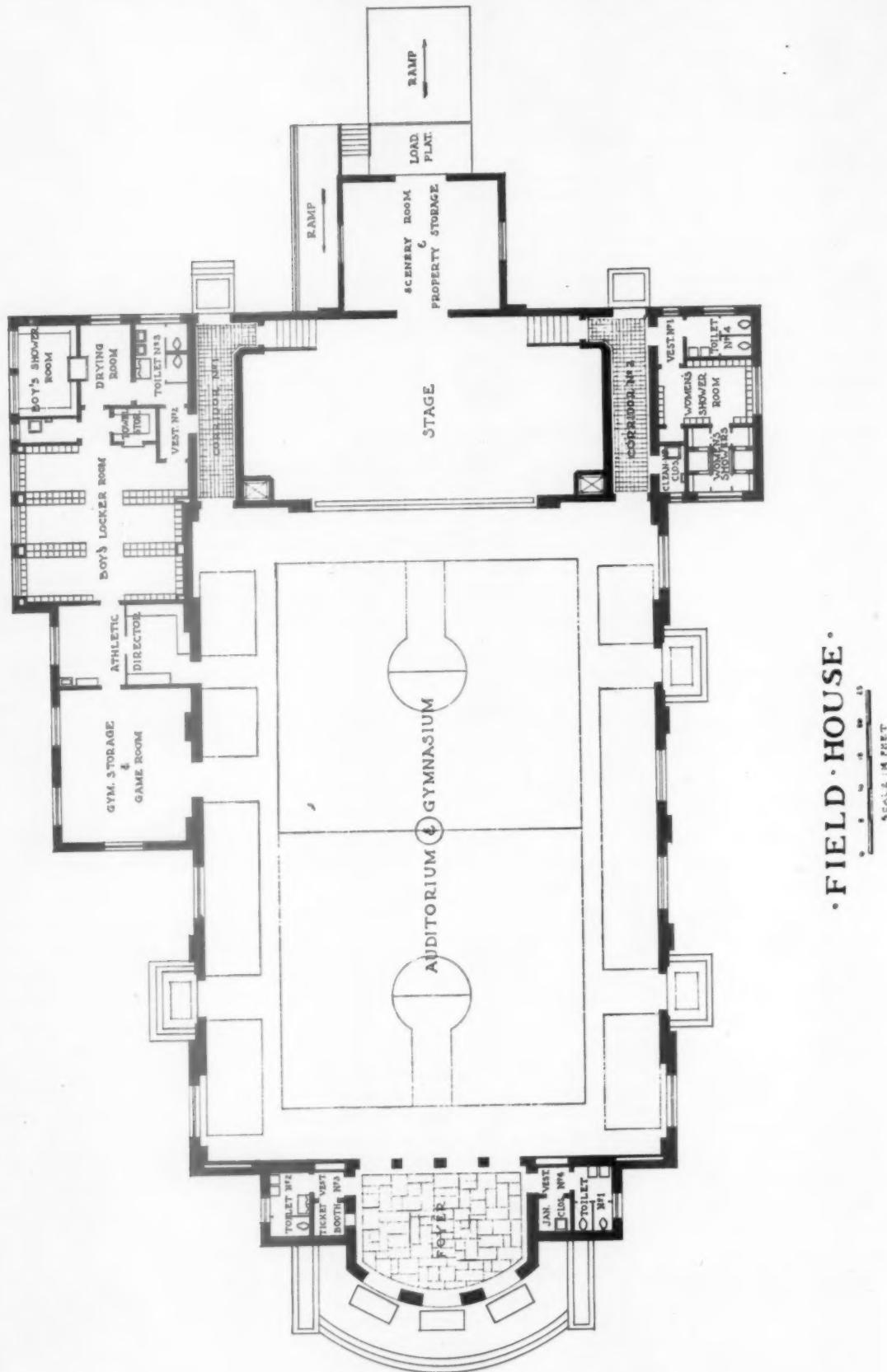
## The Community Social Hall

Diagram 3 on page 541 gives the outlines of the community social hall, with its connecting passages to the high school as well as to the elementary school building, and its entrances from the out-of-doors for general community use. Here may be held the meetings of the civic luncheon clubs, the afternoon meetings and teas of other community organizations, the evening gatherings of a choral society, a literary organization, or any other small community group. This room also

serves as the school cafeteria but is designed so that the school lunch hour may be meaningfully associated with music, talks, or student group presentations. The kitchen is of ample size to serve both community as well as school gatherings. It is cut off by soundproof walls so that noise from the kitchen need not interfere

(Continued on page 582)

## DIAGRAM 2



THE DOVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

541

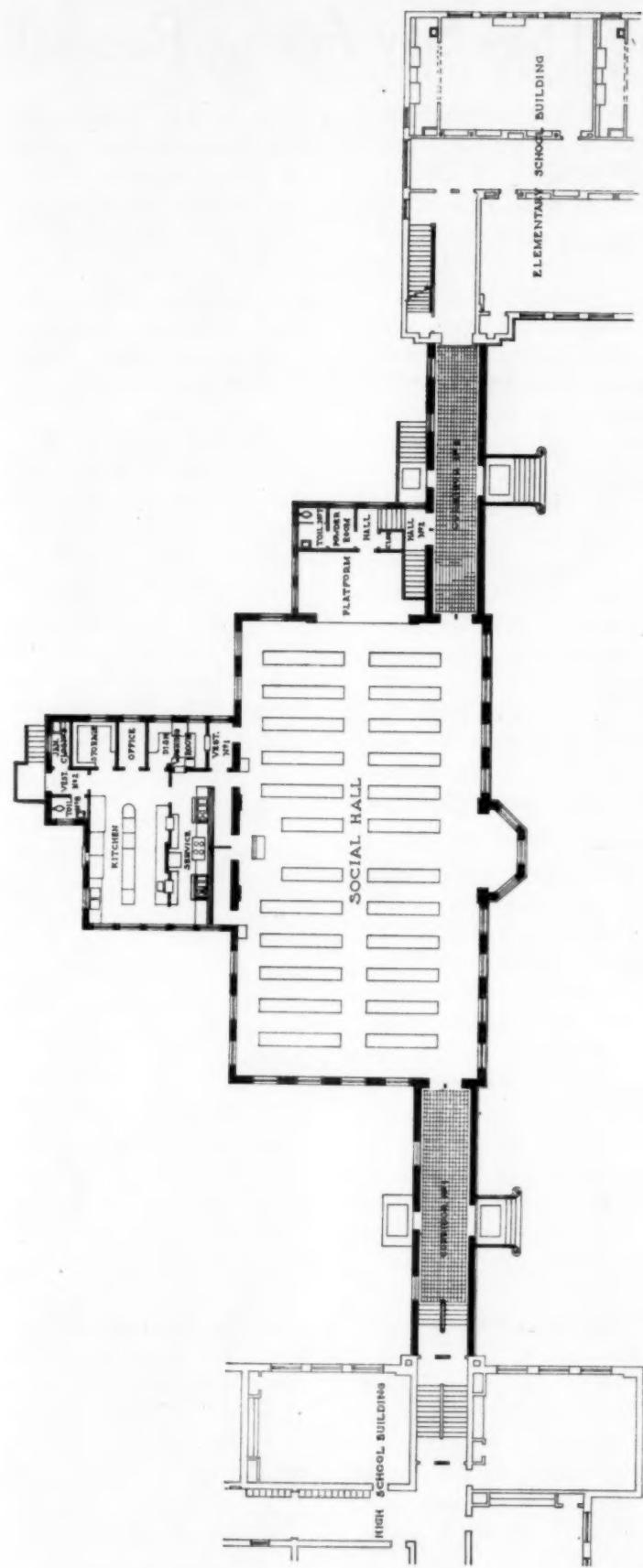


DIAGRAM 3

## What They Say About Recreation

"**R**ECREATION is a leisure-time activity, purposeful yet unrewarded except in the individual satisfactions achieved. It includes many varied types of pursuits engaged in by individuals both as individuals and as members of a group; it may be active or passive, organized or unorganized, commercial, endowed, or publicly financed. What may be work to some people may be recreation to others. All experience is educational in the broadest sense of the term. Recreation comprises those experiences which are enjoyed, for the most part, during leisure hours. Education and recreation both claim similar objectives. All recreation has educational values; likewise, to some people, educational activities have recreational values."—From *Social Services and the Schools*, Educational Policies Commission.

"To put off until tomorrow what one should enjoy today is a wasteful act. Today's joy may be stale tomorrow, stale as last week's daffodils. A person who has not learned 'to pluck the hour and the day virtuously and well' must adjust to daffodils long gone by."—Abbie Graham in *Time Off and On*.

"For the adult who was robbed of the pleasure of making things when he was young, there is still time. The greatest pleasure will come if he will develop a creative attitude. This means an attitude of experimenting, exploring, investigating, inventing. While there are many materials like clay, wood, leather, paper, and others which are as old as civilization, no one yet has exhausted the possibilities of any of these. No one has exhausted the ways of drawing with pencil, or the ways of painting, or the ways of arranging lettering in pleasing spaces. There is an infinitely wide field ahead for anyone who wishes to adventure in creating."—From *Create Something*, in *Design*.

"Since early primitive days festivals have been a folkway. They have made use of all the arts—song, dance, drama and all the crafts—and have integrated them into an art form that is meaningful to the participants because it utilizes their various proficiencies. The folkway is the child's way, and his early singing games typify this same fusion of the arts."—Percival Chubb in *Childhood Education*, September 1939.

"There is no greater pleasure in life than creating things. It is part of everyone's inheritance, for before the days of machinery our ancestors had to make everything they needed, either by hand or with simple tools. Nothing compares with the feeling of having made something that functions, having contributed something to the enrichment of life, having produced something for the community in which one lives."—From *Design*, October 1939.

"We tend to assume that competition and co-operation are contrary methods. In fact, however, cooperation nearly always originates as a means for making competition and survival more effective. Most cooperative undertakings rely on competition in many respects, while most competitive projects require cooperation in internal relations. Cooperation and competition should be complementary. Both are imperative in any extensive venture. The problem is not how to eliminate competition but how to control it."—Dr. Arthur E. Morgan.

"Because recreation will be continually expanding, and because many of its finest aspects can be realized only in connection with the land on which farmers live, it is important that organized farmers recognize the significance of recreation, not only as a source of demand for farm products, but also as something which they themselves can increasingly enjoy."—Secretary of Agriculture Wallace.

"What we are aiming to do with our recreation program is to emphasize the fact that the human spirit is as much in need of exercise as the human body. Therefore we are encouraging the development of natural aptitudes for the arts, crafts, music, dramatics, without neglecting the needs of the physical man. People are living outwardly and not inwardly today. They have too little to distract them from the confusion of the times. They are too dependent on the gadgets that consume their time and leave their hearts and minds empty. Never has there been a time when it is more important for us to reach every citizen with a broad program of recreation."—Mrs. Eugene Meyer, Chairman, Westchester County Recreation Commission.

# Recreation and the National Morale

**W**E LIVE IN the storm and stress of immense and incalculable events. As I consider the import and the impact of such events upon us, I am more and more concerned with the importance in this country of the creative use of our leisure time and of strengthening our national morale.

There has been over a month of war in Europe. Radio and press are full of reports on the effects of war on the civilian population. School houses and universities closed; children separated from parents; urban children transferred to unfamiliar rural sections without friends, books or playthings; theaters silent; blackout nights; money and energy for bombs, destruction and conquest.

We believe these things are not the American Way. We believe our task is to hold, to maintain, and to increase the opportunity for all people for jobs, a decent income for the family, security, and the good things of life. One of the good things of life, one of the important things, is recreation.

Recreation is peace insurance. Many ex-service men who were in Europe during the last war say that one reason they were anxious to get into war the last time was because of the monotony, the dullness, the sameness of life at home. In other words, war represented something new, something different and exciting, something they looked on as more of a fresh experience. I have a letter in my scrap book from one of the members of my outfit during the World War. He expressed this in the single sentence which his letter contained: "Dear Sir: I find that I like Army life better than I do home life. Yours very truly, Sam Catanzariti." If the people of every community are confronted with virile, challenging, interesting recreational opportunities *now*, civilian interest in the life of the community will be increased. Such a program of *broad* recreation is peace insurance.

Recreation is a term that is now quite widely understood. We must agree though, that recreation is an attitude of mind rather than a form of activity. What is fun for one person may be labor and even drudgery to another. Practically speaking, however, "recreation is leisure activity engaged in for its own sake." It includes outdoor

**Some of the reasons why recreation is not only one of the good things, but one of the important things, of life**

**By HON. PAUL V. McNUTT**  
**Federal Security Administrator**

and indoor games and sports, swimming, camping, hiking, nature games, dancing, picnics, drama, singing, playing instruments, parties, arts and crafts, travel, discussions and many other activities. The dictionary defines recreation as refreshment. However, it is extremely important also as a medium of personality expression and development. Recreation may be a personal hobby or some experience shared with a small or large group. It may be organized or unorganized, under private auspices or governmental, commercial or non-commercial. It is the principal opportunity of many people for expressive, joyous living.

By helping the individual to develop inner resources it enables him not only to live in a satisfying way under the normal responsibilities and stresses of existence, but also the better to meet unusual or peak demands on his physique and on his mental, moral and nervous reserves. Through habitual experience in leisure time activities that involve personal achievement, men and women develop high standards of what constitutes satisfaction and happiness in life. They tend to find enduring satisfaction in simple and usually inexpensive pleasures.

Increased leisure time can be either an asset or a liability, depending upon how it is used. The function of a recreation program is to lay out the opportunities so that community members can, in a democratic fashion, select the type of recreation they wish by free choice. The program must be broad and planned for all age groups.

The essence of true recreation is that it involves personal effort on the part of the individual and is not dependent on what is done *for* the individual but *by* him. We are here drawing a distinction between recreation and amusement. The latter is frequently passive and while temporarily it may serve an important function, it is not as substan-



*Photo by William Newkirk, Cambridge, Mass.*

Recreation out of doors, with all it has to offer both in summer and winter, is of the utmost importance to young and old

tial as true recreation, which often involves personal skill. Amusement which carries the individual into highly exciting vicarious experience is often followed by an emotional letdown which makes the morning after seem stale and flat. Genuine recreation, on the other hand, tends to refresh and stimulate and leave the individual better prepared than before for the normal duties of existence.

The outdoor recreation with which we are familiar in the United States — sports and games, swimming, skating, coasting, tramping, mountain climbing, camping, hunting and fishing, are necessary outlets for men and women required to live in our cities. Such recreation has important biological effects upon the system. It makes for the "primal sanities" of which Walt Whitman so eloquently writes. Direct benefits to the body of abundant exercise in the open air in contact with the ultra-violet rays of the sun are too widely acknowledged to need arguing here.

But if recreation has come of age it must be considered as something in addition to a teeter-totter, a swing, and a playground in a park for children or even a lake in the mountains or a baseball game. It must include opportunities for art and craft work; community dramatics; recreational music; choral work; dancing, forum and

discussion work; quiet activities such as reading, the organization of clubs, groups in creative writing; the aquatic and winter sports programs. The American recreation program must not be a purely regimented physical program as is true in some foreign countries. Out of leisure time will grow the new culture for America. It must be a culture which provides for the intelligent use of the arts, which provides for socializing experiences in addition to physical development.

One result of the strain of modern life is the disposition of the individual to live in the past or future, to day-dream and evade present issues and responsibilities. Many forms of recreation, physical and otherwise, tend to relieve this condition by compelling the individual's attention to the present situation. For example, if a ball is thrown to him, he must catch it or he is likely to be struck and injured by it. If he is taking part in a play, the success of the drama depends upon his meeting his cues promptly.

For both individuals and masses of men, the drawing off of pent-up energy through witnessing pageants, spectacles, boxing matches and parades and from listening to concerts has value. It has particular value if the entertainment is the result of the community of action of himself and his fellows.

In order to be successful, recreation programs must have good public relations. Activities offered must be those which the people have demonstrated that they want. This is one contribution a recreation program can make to the democratic way of life. This element of free choice may be recreation's main contribution to democracy.

The provision of well-balanced recreation for every individual has become a social question of the first magnitude. The growth of leisure and the realization that the purchasing power of millions of Americans contains little margin for recreational services and equipment, coupled with the recognition of the necessity of recreation in the life of the individual has led to the enormous expansion of interest in the subject on the part of governmental and private agencies. Recreation has become one of the great "musts" in community and national life. Our community parks and playgrounds, national and state parks and forests, camps, golf courses, beaches, social centers, museums and libraries, not to mention the vast network of commercially fostered amusements, are the expression of the Nation's appetite for recreation.

Recreational planning in the United States is beginning to take on some of the large magnificent dimensions characteristic of our great industrial developments and such government projects as the Panama Canal, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Boulder Dam. Witness, for example, our national state parks and forests, Jones Beach, and the statesmanlike development of recreation properties in New York City, Chicago and other large communities. It is of immense importance to our country's future that at a time of great basic changes in American life the work of some of the best brains in the United States are going into recreation.

We know that basic social and economic changes have taken place in our country with the disappearance of the frontier. The term "frontier" carries a meaning that is of the essence of the American spirit and has always been closely associated with the promise of American life. The

existence of the frontier spelled opportunity for livelihood, pioneering and adventure. Some of the very means of livelihood on the frontier were the exciting occupations of hunting, fishing, trapping. It is fundamentally important that now that the frontier itself is gone we shall retain the frontier spirit—the admittedly restless American spirit which is always seeking new experience and new adventure.

Herein lies one of the great roles of organized recreation in relation to national morale. Recreation offers the prospect to all American citizens of avenues for the constructive employment of the pioneering spirit. In this sense we want the people of the United States always to remain young. We want them to apply their restless urges to mountain climbing, camping, swimming, sailing, sports, arts and crafts, music, nature study, drama, travel, and the many other forms of interesting leisure experience.

Those who are professionally engaged in planning and organizing recreation need no reminder that such activities as they have developed in the United States includes opportunity both for the

**Recreation, if it has come of age, must include opportunities for arts and crafts and for many other creative activities**



Courtesy Oglebay Institute

expression of the individual's personal desires for achievement and recognition and for social experience of the highest educational quality.

It is obvious that the great recreation areas and facilities of the United States, and especially organized programs provided by recreation leaders, are unifying influences among the people. They draw citizens together in enjoyment of national and state, county, urban and neighborhood recreational facilities and activities. One needs only to visit the national parks and the community facilities to see how this operates. On the highways, at

points of scenic or historic interest, at picnic grounds and at camp sites in a national park, he will find the Texan rubbing elbows with the Vermonter and the man from Puget Sound exchanging experiences and ideas with the man from Miami. One sees the unifying influence at work in the neighborhood centers, carnivals

of sport, music festivals, playground programs, picnics, athletic meets, and discussion groups which are common elements of municipal recreation service. The diverse national groups who make up the population of our cities are brought together in friendly, harmonizing activities. Recreation is the great democratizer and unifier.

In recent years the Federal Government has attempted to provide in positive terms a free and public program of recreation for all our people—regardless of age, creed, race or economic status.

The depression was a challenge to national morale and called forth a great extension of recreational service. The closing of banks, swift rise of unemployment, and the enormous reduction in national income threatened the confidence and

spirit of the nation. Besides the economic measures taken by the Government to meet this challenge was the expansion of recreation facilities and services by all governmental units. Many of the jobless themselves were put to work providing recreation and entertainment for the public.

Almost every agency of the Federal Government created to combat the economic and devitalizing effects of the depression has had a positive effect on the leisure and culture on the people of this Nation. Established agencies of the Federal Government expanded their programs to meet

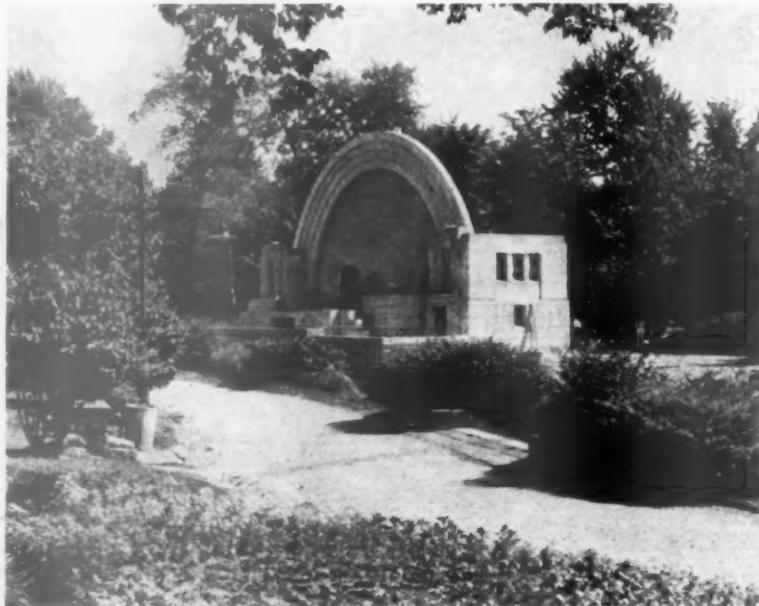
pressing needs and new agencies were created dealing specifically with the problem of recreation.

The full effect of these efforts has not been recorded and we are perhaps still too close to the emergency to have the proper historical perspective on them. Yet we know that the American people with few

exceptions did gain much from these emergency programs, not only in physical equipment but in the recognition of existing needs and possibilities for meeting them.

It is impressive to think of the 17,000 new facilities built under the sponsorship of local recreation, school and public works authorities, and of the 40,000 workers per month which WPA has supplied to recreation leadership projects in over 7,000 communities during the past fifteen months. It is particularly significant to know that more than half of these communities had a population of less than 2,500—for it is in our small towns and rural communities that future planning in recreational activities offers the greatest challenge.

(Continued on page 583)



This music shell in Reading, Pa., is representative of the types of facilities that are aiding in the development of the "new culture which provides for the intelligent use of the arts"

# A "Tonic" for the Craft Shop

WHILE MANY of the craft activities which were so popular at the craft shop before Christmas will be continued after the holidays, it is a wise idea to offer a whole new set of suggestions, or at least the old ideas in a new dress to tempt lagging interests. Just as soon as Christmas is over pack away all the evidences of the holiday gift idea. Rejuvenate the bulletin boards and bring out new displays. A hint of what the post-Christmas season will offer should be forecast before the first of the year. Along with this should come new publicity. Let the newspapers know your new activity plans and get a new craft bulletin for your permanent mailing list. New bulletins and posters posted in the schools will keep the youngsters interested. Extend special invitations to Scout, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. and other youth agency executives to attend the craft classes for new suggestions for their own groups.

## The Place

Another thing to consider is the location of your Community Craft Shop. Is it in an unattractive, dark, out-of-the-way place? If it is, why not try to do something about it?

The Davenport Community Craft Shop is located in the Public Library. Situated in the center of business activity, it has proved both popular and convenient. The Library Board graciously accepted our request for craft shop space and turned over two large, light rooms on the second floor. Aside from the benefits already mentioned in using the public library for your shop, you will find the cooperation of the librarians very valuable in making special craft book displays for you and in ferreting out all sorts of interesting source materials for any number of crafts such as weaving, puppetry, modeling, wood carving and the like. If you haven't thought about approaching your library board for craft

By ROBERT L. HORNEY

Director of Recreation  
Park Board  
Davenport, Iowa

shop space, why not try? It's easy to attract people to your shop, because the library gets hundreds of them every day anyway, and they'll look in out of curiosity first, then come back regularly if your displays and suggestions are varied and attractive.

January is no time to allow any deficiencies in ingenuity to occur. Rather it should be the time of the year when your craft projects look so tempting that even the most apathetic is lured to a new hobby. The phlegmatic soul will be so attracted by the activities you offer that she will brave the slush and sleet in exchange for the pair of plaster plaques she's creating for the guest room!

## What to Make

Of the crafts which were so in favor as gifts, the following may continue to be popular at any season:

Photo-Snap Books are always in demand, especially with amateur photographers and candid camera fans increasing at such a rapid rate. The book covers, measuring about 8½" by 14", are made of ply wood. When the wood is sanded to perfect smoothness it is ready to decorate with wood burning. We tried Mexican designs and found them very effective.

While not a new craft, hand-carved jewel and glove boxes never seem to wane in popularity. Boxes made from bass wood best lend themselves to carving. They may be had from a number of commercial craft companies at reasonable cost.

The craft is to be highly commended, as it affords one of the best opportunities for original design, and the art of wood carving is one of the oldest and most fascinating of all crafts.

Two other craft ideas which are popular most any month of the year are indoor flower boxes and hanging flower pots made from gourds. The indoor flower boxes are made of ply wood

Is your community craft shop likely to be the victim of a post-Christmas lethargy? Does it enjoy the rush accompanying Christmas gift making, only to suffer from neglect after the new year? The pre-holiday season usually inspires everyone to a frenzy of ambition and activity. The November and December bustle around a craft shop is largely a problem of how to take care of everyone, but January may bring a slump in attendance unless a special effort is made to keep interest at its height. After the let-up of the holidays, it is a clever leader who can keep activity at a peak! There are ways, however, of maintaining interest.

to fit any sized window desired. When painted in bright colors they add a touch of spring to any room, and may launch you on a new hobby—indoor gardening—which is quite another thing and worthy of more discussion than this article can give.

The gourd flower pots are simple and easy to make. Scoop out the seeds and let the gourds dry. After this you'll find it fun to paint them in clear primary colors. Hang in the sun room this winter and forget the blizzard outside.

Dress ornaments such as clips, pins, buttons, belts and jewelry are always in demand. In our shop we use two materials for this craft—wood or pewter. Wooden bracelets, buttons and the like are much in vogue and command good prices in the shops; but they can be made for little money and can be individually different when created by you.

Pewter is a highly malleable metal and lends itself readily to most methods known of beating down, raising and casting. It is an admirable metal for the beginner in metal work because it is a soft metal, and scratches, dents and irregularities are easily removed. Unlike copper and brass, bowls and plates can readily be pounded into wooden forms, assuring the beginner in metal craft good results from the start. If you haven't tried this metal in your craft shop you're sure to find it interesting to work with. Right now the young set are fond of large pewter monogrammed pins.

We also use the tooling or modeling of thin soft metal as an introduction to more skilled metal crafts. Requiring only a few tools, modeling metal has practically no limits. The metal is easily cut with an old pair of scissors and only inexpensive wooden modeling tools are needed to place the lines of the design onto the metal. In this way the classes have created interesting metal plaques, name plates, greeting cards, award shields and similar articles. The modeling metal comes in discs of copper, pewter or aluminum.

Christmas is the big season for making table decorations, party favors and ornaments, but this craft need not be limited to the Yule season. We have found that hostesses are just as anxious for new party ideas other seasons of the year. If you keep seasonal suggestions on display you'll find there's always a demand. Unusual and interesting mantel arrangements may be included in this service too.

Weaving is another year-round craft which never lags in popularity. Woolen scarfs, mittens, ear muffs and rugs are favorite winter projects.

Some of the crafts new to our shop, which we are introducing now or after the holidays, include new block printing ideas, cork craft, suede craft and shaggy rugs.

With Christmas cards out of the running for another year, block printing can now lend itself to valentines, mottoes or book plates. The book lover will cherish a book plate which will designate his books and bring them back to the fold when they show a tendency to stray. Block printing is also highly effective when used on linens and silks for a whole variety of interesting articles. Block printing has unlimited possibilities for design for costumes stressing the peasant or dirndl influence.

The preserving of baby shoes by mounting them on book ends is one of the most popular of craft ideas. The baby shoe is mounted on a wooden base, the base carved to represent a book. Then the shoe is filled with white modeling plaster and allowed to "set." Even the wrinkles and the bent over shapes of the tiny shoes may be preserved this way. When the plaster is dry the book ends may be antiqued white or painted with silver, gold or bronze and preserved indefinitely.

Cork is an inexpensive and practical material from which book marks, luncheon place mats, hot pads, coasters, bracelets and many other small projects may be made. Cork may be easily cut out with a sharp knife or scissors and can be decorated with water colors, oil paints, or drawing ink.

Leathercraft has always been, and undoubtedly will continue to be, one of the popular crafts of the shop. The first of the year, however, we are introducing suede for jackets, hats, gloves, belts and other costume accessories. This leather which is high style now is a soft pliable and durable leather, and may be obtained in a wide variety of attractive colors. Remember that after you cut the main article the suede scraps may be used for coin purses, coat flowers, or applique designs.

Shaggy rugs are popular with matrons. Yards of canvas and a heavy wrapping cord very much like chenille provide the materials. The canvas is the base for the rug and may be cut any desired size or shape. The chenille is wound ten times around a heavy cardboard,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". Then the chenille is clipped at each end of the cardboard and the center sewed to the canvas with

(Continued on page 584)

# A Different Kind of Little Theater

An interesting community project in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, is a Children's Theater Guild in which a group of non-professional adults is presenting plays exclusively for children

By

ETHYL PINE VAN HERCKE

BECAUSE the women of a community in Wisconsin determined that their children should not grow up without creative as well as recreational advantages, a different kind of little theater has come into being in Wauwatosa. It is not the kind that keeps children from doing their homework for there is ample time for reading, writing, and arithmetic; and there are glorious hours left for skating and swimming. Children are not the performers in the Children's Theater Guild of Wauwatosa. They are the audience that shrieks with delight at the antics of Billy Graybeard or Jack-in-the-Box. Mothers, teachers, and fathers with such professional letters as M.D. and D.D.S. tacked onto their names do all the acting, for Miss Marjorie Colton, a teacher in the public schools who directs the stage plays, believes that parents and teachers have a better understanding of child psychology and can portray characters from the world of fantasy more successfully than can professionals.

A Wauwatosa mother, Mrs. Clarence Muth, originated the idea and interested the Parent-Teacher Association and Superintendent of Schools, Professor William Darling, in the project. And then the entire community became interested. High school students set to work making posters; scenery was painted, and scenery shifters were engaged. Boy Scouts were trained to act as ushers and received credit from their units for their services in the project. With the whole com-



*Milwaukee Journal Photo*

## The Wauwatosa Children's Theater Guild in a presentation of "Hans Brinker"

munity designing stage settings and costumes and with mothers and WPA workers making the costumes, the village has been very happy about its community project.

Funds are raised for materials, costumes, and for equipment by the sale of tickets through the schools, and the plays are held in the high school auditorium. Because of the large attendance it has been necessary to limit the sale of tickets, and at a number of performances many children had to be turned away. A partial remedy for this has been found in the sale of season tickets and in repeat performances. However, a new high school will soon be completed, and the new auditorium, it is believed, will accommodate all the children who want to come.

At the close of every performance the children are loathe to leave, and they are invited to come

across the stage and talk with the actors. Moreover they are urged to express their likes and dislikes, and notes are made of their opinions. In this way a record is secured of the children's reactions to the plays.

#### Original Plays Used

Although many plays requiring the payment of royalties have been presented, the Guild fosters creative ability by putting on original plays written by mothers in the community. Mrs. Harriett Lightfoot has written a play, "Dottie Calico and Her Mischievous Rags," which has attracted state-wide attention. The play, rewritten for broadcasting, was included in a series of five plays presented over WTMJ, *Milwaukee Journal Station*, by the fourth and fifth districts of the Parent-Teacher Associations during 1938 and 1939. It has been the dream of the Guild that it might bring these adult performances for children into the smaller towns and outlying districts so that children throughout Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois might enjoy this entertainment. Through these broadcasts this dream is being partially realized.

The performers are chosen from groups who come for tryouts, and every effort is made to select players whose voices carry well rather than those who have had long dramatic training. From one unit of twenty players the cast has grown to three units with a total of approximately sixty players.

#### The Plays They Enjoy

Mrs. Muth, who serves as executive director, is able to determine the types of plays the children most enjoy from the information she has received from questionnaires sent hundreds of school children. They are, she finds, especially fond of fairy tales, but the trend seems to be toward stories from real life. On the questionnaires, which are signed by the parents, the children state the order of their preference for plays produced and make suggestions for future performances.

Many requests for performances have come to the Guild from Parent-Teacher organizations throughout the state, but because the performers are engaged in professions in Milwaukee and Wauwatosa it is not possible to make engagements at long distances.

#### Objectives

From the beginning the Guild has had definite aims:

- To set a high standard of entertainment for children
- To develop cultural interest in the theater
- To stimulate creative imagination
- To set standards of good speech, diction, and dramatics
- To create interest in customs of other lands
- To increase knowledge of good literature
- To influence behavior patterns by setting accepted standards of courage, honor, industry, unselfishness
- To bring beauty, laughter, entertainment to those who cannot afford expensive theater tickets
- To foster creative ability in the community
- To cooperate in making Wauwatosa "recreation conscious"

#### Community Cooperation

Strictly a community project, noncommercial and experimental, the people of Wauwatosa have joined hands in preparing and presenting the fall and spring series, which is usually climaxed by a circus or marionette show.

The interchanging of plays with other communities, such as West Allis and Shorewood, insures wholesome entertainment throughout the year. It brings the children a greater variety of plays and, according to Mr. Thomas Greenwill, Wauwatosa Director of Recreation, it is the ideal recreation for stormy Saturdays.

Like Milwaukee, Wauwatosa is proud of its low delinquency record, its freedom from gang hangouts, and its conspicuously low crime record. The entire citizenry has become education conscious. In almost every family one or more members are engaged in studying speech, English, photography, painting, stenography, knitting, leather tooling, or short story writing.

Various women's organizations urge the introduction of new and interesting adult courses which are taught by those successful in their various fields in the community. These civic-minded women have a way of getting what they want because they go and get it! They have faith in the ability of Wauwatosa citizens and give them every opportunity to develop creative ability.

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If any of our readers have information regarding projects similar to the interesting project which the Wauwatosa Children's Theater Guild is conducting, we shall be glad to receive accounts of what is being done so that we may publish additional information in *RECREATION*.



By

WILLIAM P. WITT

Former Superintendent of Recreation  
Seguin, Texas

## Ultra Modern Recreation in a Small Community

**I**N 1938 SEGUIN, TEXAS, a community of 7,500 people, celebrated its centennial, marking a hundred years of steady growth and development. Seguin is a city in its own rights, owning its power plant, and distributing water and lights to its citizens at a nominal fee. The town not only has been able to stay free of debt, but has stored up a substantial reserve fund while steadily building and making improvements for the past thirty-two years.

Among the first things the casual visitor will notice on entering Seguin are such structures as the new municipal building built of Texas limestone and outfitted with all the modern equipment such as tile floors, Venetian blinds, air conditioning, and indirect lighting. On reaching the square, the visitor sees the massive new courthouse also of limestone and modern in every respect.

### In Max Starcke Park

One mile south of Seguin, along one of the seven paved highways leading through the town, is beautiful Max Starcke Park. This modern recreation plant, which occupies seventy-five acres on the north bank of the Guadalupe River, is one of the most complete of its kind in the South. Here all recreation activities are planned in one unit.

#### The Playground

The visitor enters through a wide gate to see just ahead of

him a white concrete bathhouse and recreation building. On the right is the playground built not only for children but for adults and furnished with permanent equipment such as swings, slides, a jungle gym, and a concrete sand box with its sand filter to purify the sand. On the northwest end of the playground are located two asphalt tennis courts well lighted for night play. In the center of the playground an area 150' by 200' has been set aside for such games as shuffleboard, badminton, volleyball, horseshoes, croquet, and tennis. This area has a concrete curbing around it, and each playing court is provided with a guard rail to protect the players. There are four concrete shuffleboard courts, two croquet courts, and one each of the other game courts. The entire area is well lighted for night play, as is all of the park.

In the northeast corner a lighted stage has been constructed for community night programs. Last, but not least, running parallel with the south fence is an archery range. On the left is a well kept softball diamond lighted for night play and equipped with bleachers for spectators. All the equipment for these activities are obtainable from a modern storehouse located in the center of the playground.

#### The Bathhouse

The bathhouse has a unique feature in a 40' by 90' dance pavilion on the roof with various colored lights encased all around the wall and with floodlights for special occasions. overshadowing the bathhouse is a massive pecan tree, one of the several hundred pecan trees scattered over the

**A city of 7500 people makes a convincing answer to the argument that a small community does not need and cannot support a year-round recreation program**

park and along the bank of the river. The bathhouse contains dressing rooms, a large ticket booth, storage rooms, and a manager's office. The bathhouse is also equipped with a public address system so that music is broadcast over the playgrounds, swimming pool, and golf course for the added enjoyment of the people at play. Often the public address system is used to call doctors and business men off the golf course when they are needed.

Just west of the recreation building stands the club house, similar in structure to that of the recreation building. Separating the two buildings is the swimming pool 100' by 60', enclosed by a cyclone fence. The pool is modern in every respect and has been given a fine rating by the Texas State Health Department in Austin.

**Golf Course.** A paved road runs through the park and along the banks of the river to the west end of the golf course. This road provides a wonderful drive and affords a fine view of the entire park. The golf course is one of the best nine hole courses in the state, and not only has fine Bermuda grass, but in addition has nine bent grass greens. These bent grass greens draw golfers from all parts of Texas as they afford an unusually fine putting surface. On the north bank of the river a concrete boat landing has been constructed, and boating is enjoyed by many of the Seguin citizens and visitors.

### The Program

The Recreation Department has been organized on a year-round basis and promotes winter activities as well as a more expansive summer program. During the winter months such activities as dance clubs, City League basketball, boys' clubs, classes for preschool age children, volleyball leagues, dramatic clubs, and handcraft classes are conducted to care for the leisure time of all ages and types of people in the community. By working hand in hand with the schools, the Recreation Department has the privilege of using the school gymnasium facilities in the carrying out of its winter program. These facilities include the grammar school and college gymnasiums for organized sports and two of the school auditoriums for plays. The playgrounds of one of the local schools is used on Saturdays and after school hours to promote supervised play for the adolescent boys and girls.

The summer staff of the Recreation Department is composed of the superintendent of recre-

ation, office girl, two bathhouse attendants, three lifeguards, two playground leaders, and a golf professional. There is also a maintenance crew hired on a year-round basis. During the winter months the staff is cut to the superintendent and two assistants. During the summer months NYA girls have been used as extra help when needed; however, all the regular staff is paid by the city.

Statistics for the period from May 19, 1938 to September 19, 1938 tell an interesting story. The picnic units were used by 25,098 people; 26,431 people used the swimming pool; 5,992 people played golf; 3,101 people played shuffleboard; 5,116 enjoyed ping-pong; 1,821 played tennis; softball had a total of 14,000 players and spectators; 1,193 people held private dances on the roof; community night programs drew 1,400; and the Fourth of July water pageant attracted 5,000, making an attendance of 89,152 people for this period. The financial report for the same period showed the following receipts: boat concession, \$55.59; golf course, \$2,687.92; swimming pool, \$4,538.99; rental from roof, \$72.00 — making a total of \$7,354.50 in receipts for the four months' period.

This successful year-round recreation program in Seguin proves what a group of civic-minded people working together toward a set goal *can* and *did* do for a community. Seguin, with its beautiful buildings, paved highways, and its ultramodern recreation center, has not only proved an attraction for the "home folks," but has drawn people to this modern little city from all parts of the state.

### Leadership

Of course, in any progressive community there must be a leader, and Seguin had an outstanding one in its former mayor, the Honorable Max Starcke, who is now operations manager for the Lower Colorado River Authority. This man, for ten years mayor of Seguin, had a vision of progress for the town he loved and, being a man of action, he has lived to see his dream come true, supervising the actual work being done.

All the improvements Seguin has made would not have been possible without the aid of WPA which has furnished labor for nearly all the projects sponsored by the city in the last seven years. Following in the footsteps of Mr. Starcke, the newly elected mayor, the Honorable Roger W. Moore, is continuing to lead the way in the progressive movement already started in Seguin.

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# Recreation for Children in a Democracy

By IRMA RINGE

IS THERE a difference in the play and recreation available to Pat, age eleven, living in Burnett County, Wisconsin, and Henry, the same age, living in Milwaukee? Why doesn't Jane's mother understand why a girl of twelve should be allowed to go with other boys and girls to the church social? What can parents do about Johnny—ever since he had that cold last winter, he doesn't seem to have any appetite or energy enough to play? And how can a mother attend the class on "Child Behavior Problems" when her own child, age six, has to be taken care of all day?

If we want all our children, thirty-six million of them, to grow into the democratic way of life with healthy minds and bodies, what do we need to do? This question comes before the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy which meets in Washington this January. Six hundred members will discuss recommendations for improved recreation along with problems of family income, economic aid, health and medical care, social services, housing, schooling, religion and family life. As a setting for the Conference a brief resume is given here of the present situation in the light of the last ten years of progress.\*

Our organized recreation resources are a part of industry, government, private organizations and associations. These organized resources reflect the natural advantages of the land and the capacity of the people who live on it. These resources are inter-dependent; none of them affects the problems of leisure independently. This resume does not deal with natural resources and the capacities of our people. They are, however, no less important. Our organized forms of recreation are but the signposts which indicate the needs and desires of people and the way in which we have set about to meet them.

## What Money Can Buy

Some of our biggest national industries cater primarily to the leisure interests of people. Our radio resources have quadrupled during the last ten years. Out of a total of 32,500,000 homes in this country, 27,500,000 had radios on January 1, 1939. These radios are used on the average of

\* The reader is urged to refer to the current series of articles in *Harpers Magazine* called "Since Yesterday," as they give us a graphic picture of the whole "social climate" of the nineteen-thirties, and remind us that it has been ten years of "portentous change: ten years of Depression and New Deal, against a disturbingly altered background of international dissension and totalitarian advance, leading to war."

four and a half hours daily—rural families using the radio more each day than urban families. The most popular radio programs for young people are variety and comedy features like Fred Allen and Major Bowes.

Movie going has not quite recovered from the effects of the depression. In 1938, the average weekly attendance was eighty-five million; in 1930, one hundred and ten million. About one-third of all persons attending are below the age of sixteen. The favorite movies of young people are closely related to their radio interests, running to musical spectacles, adventure and comedy.

With the possible exception of theaters in a few of our largest metropolitan centers and the program of the former Federal Project of the WPA, the legitimate theater has no large effect on the leisure of our population. Some are asking the question whether recreation agencies have capitalized much more on youthful knowledge and enthusiasm for music as developed through the radio than they have an interest in acting and plays.

Reading is often voted the most popular pastime of young people. However, estimates show that not more than one-fourth of the reading population reads books. Bookstores, like libraries, are still urban institutions; approximately 51% of our population, especially in rural areas, live in communities without bookstores. Magazine readers outnumber book readers six to one. During the last ten years picture magazines such as *Life*, *Look*, *Pic* came into being and have gained large circulation. Most popular of all are our daily newspapers, roughly two thousand of them, reaching a total circulation of forty million daily. The features best liked by the younger members of the family are the life and fortunes of "Orphan Annie" and other comic strip characters, puzzles, contests and continued adventure stories.

Traveling, especially by the automobile, to visit friends, parks and resorts is also a great favorite. During the depression travel suffered comparatively less than other forms of commercial recreation. This was largely due to increased domestic travel by car.

In addition to these larger groupings, there are many types of recreation which money buys as sporting goods, athletic equipment, games, and all the paraphernalia and accessories that go with hobbies. Expenditures for these types

Miss Ringe was a member of the research staff of the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy. This article reviews the progress of recreation over the past ten years.



of items were estimated as being between fifty to two hundred million dollars in 1935.

#### Who Buys Recreation?

The ability of families to buy these items of recreation varies directly with the amount of income which the family receives. What is our family income? In 1935, 42 per cent of our families had incomes less than \$1,000 a year; 65 per cent received less than \$1,500 a year; 87 per cent less than \$2,500 a year. Above this level there were about 10 per cent with incomes up to \$5,000; about 2 per cent receiving between \$5-\$10,000 and 1 per cent with incomes of \$10,000 or more. The rural farm family, the low income wage earner and the unemployed, and people in the south and other depressed areas, have disproportionately low incomes. These facts are important to all members of the Conference on Children in a Democracy. They are of special concern to those interested in recreation because these groups are the least able to purchase recreational goods and services.

Even within the same income groups, that is, for two families each having four children and each an income of \$1,200, there exists a wide variation in the kind of recreation which can be bought, depending on where the family lives. The same items of newspapers, movies, organization fees, toys and tobacco may cost one family \$87 a year in Binghamton, New York, and the other family \$62 a year because they live in Kansas City. A wide variation like this makes a big dif-

ference to a family which must pinch the pennies in order to provide the necessities of life.

#### Community Recreation Agencies, Public and Private

Community recreation programs carried out by recreation commissions, park departments, school boards and other local government agencies are reported each year in the June issue of this magazine. We should take great encouragement in the fact that

by 1938, local public recreation bodies had recupered all of the losses sustained in the depression and in many respects reached new levels of accomplishment. The number of cities reporting new recreation bodies, the number of new playgrounds, the number of playgrounds open all year, the number of people employed full time (47 per cent more than in 1932), the number of facilities used, the number of participants, all show large and important gains. All such facts show that we have made excellent progress. We still have a large job ahead in holding gains such as these and in eliminating the inequalities which exist among cities, states and regions. We have states of large population with but one city having a public recreation agency; we have public recreation bodies able to employ only part-time workers; we have many programs operating only during the summer months; we have too few activities especially designed for the physically handicapped child; we have paid less attention than we ought to the child with personality difficulties. All this we know means a long and hard job ahead with splendid rewards for all citizens who share in the shaping and making of the programs as well as for those who enjoy the fun!

Studies made in 1925, 1930 and 1935 show that during these ten years total park acreage increased 49 per cent. In the years 1930-35, facilities for active recreation such as athletic fields, swimming pools, golf courses, and play shelters made important relative gains and show a grow-

ing popular demand for this type of recreation. These gains reflect the use of federal funds in recreation construction. The progress recorded in many park statistics is heartening. We have our eyes, however, on the many cities (three fourths of those reporting) that are far below standards established for park acreage; on the cities, especially those in the five to ten thousand population group that have no parks at all; and on all those active recreation facilities that have no leaders or supervisors to teach Johnny to swim and help Mary to know more about flowers than just "Don't Pick!"

Our school buildings are being increasingly used for community recreation. As a result, new construction includes such features as nursery schools, auditoriums, social rooms, shops and outside play spaces. The multiple use of school buildings has been excellently illustrated through articles appearing in the *Architectural Forum*, *Architectural Record* and *Progressive Education*. Those phases of the school curriculum concerned with health and physical education are coming to be closely identified with recreation. We have also many examples of ways in which school administrators are conferring with parents and recreation directors to plan children's play centers, nursery schools, camps and social-recreational activities for young people out of school. Of special concern to us is the fact that schools themselves often lack funds to keep the doors open from nine to five for 190 days in the year for their own educational program. Knowing as we do that the outcomes of education and recreation are so closely related, persons desiring to see further use of the school as a community center (especially in rural areas) will have to face squarely, with educators, the issues involved. The results of several outstanding educational studies, such as those made by the President's Advisory Committee on Education, by the Educa-

tional Policies Commission, by the American Youth Commission and also the report of the New York State Regent's Inquiry should be familiar to recreation directors. The January meeting of the Conference will give special consideration to the problem of an adequate schooling for all children.

The chance of having a good book to read on a rainy afternoon is rather slim for many children. Seventy-four per cent of our rural population are without public library service. To get books to children and to make it possible for them to pursue hobby interests on their own, we must have additional public libraries.

Before ending our list of public agencies, we must also count in the local museum and art gallery, the health agency, the housing authority, police department and welfare department. All of these help out in locating neglected groups, in working out programs for these groups and in strengthening and diversifying the activities which the community provides for its children as well as adults.

National private organizations like the Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Boys Clubs of America are often represented in the community. The combined membership of these organizations is two million boys and girls. In the larger cities, other national agencies such as the Y.W. and Y.M.C.A.'s, the Y.M. and Y.M.H.A.'s have local units. Sometimes communities have settlements,



Courtesy U. S. Housing Authority—Photo by Sekaer

educational alliances and welfare associations which have no direct affiliation to a similar national body. These agencies often receive their funds, along with other private welfare organizations, from Community Chests. Approximately one fourth of all Community Chest Funds are appropriated for leisure services, many of which are designed especially for children. In some 306 cities the financial consolidation has brought about community coordination and planning through Councils of Social Agencies. Within the last several years, some of the larger cities have created in these Councils a special division on recreation or group work in order to give membership organizations continuous planning and advisory assistance. Membership in Councils of Social agencies includes both members and non-members of the Chest.

The whole field of recreation has advanced through the special emphasis which private agencies have given, and are giving, to the problems of leisure. Their best examples are the utilization of volunteer leaders, the participation of citizens in planning and advisory committees, provision of programs for special groups, and the making of community studies and surveys. All these are of great importance and point to the fact the private agencies have vital functions. Special studies indicate that the participation of children from low income groups is disproportionately small in some organizations, that many centers are in need of improvement and repair, that more funds are spent for boys than for girls, and that the smaller towns and rural areas are often not reached at all by units of many of the national private organizations.

*Your state* has no distinct permanent organization for recreation, either public or private. There may be recreational functions carried out in connection with public education, state parks and forests, conservation, works, health, and welfare, and planning agencies, but these are usually all carried out by a department which subordinates the recreational phases to the major responsibilities of the particular office. With few exceptions, most of these functions are carried out in each office as though no one outside the jurisdiction of that office, were performing related or similar functions. The 1938 Yearbook of the National Park Service, *Park and Recreation Progress*, discusses the problem of state recreation organization in connection with an article on "Federal Grants-in-Aid for Recreation." The question is fairly

new to us and it probably will be of increasing importance as we attempt to develop inter-community cooperation within the state and coordinate relationship with the types of assistance available from different federal bureaus and departments.

State Park and Forest acreage on January 1, 1939 totaled over six million acres for our nation. One half of this acreage lies in two states—New York and Michigan. The addition of four more states—California, Massachusetts, Montana, and Texas—accounts for over 70 per cent of this total. Reports show that state parks devoted to active recreation and providing day-use facilities within reasonable distance of metropolitan centers are inadequate. Virtually no state park facilities for Negroes exist; this is a particularly serious matter in our southern states.

Some state planning agencies have given special emphasis to recreation. Although surveys and reports are often confined to tourist vacationing and land planning, they show a growing appreciation of the broader aspects of state planning for the leisure of all the people.

*Your national government* during the past ten years has done more in the field of recreation than in any other decade. Much of this came about through programs to give employment to the unemployed and to speed the return of purchasing power. As a result, public recreation made rapid advances and has given us an indication of popular response to opportunities for play and recreation. The last decade has seen tremendous interest and participation in informal games and less pretentious sports as camping, softball, tennis, swimming, archery, handball and the like. Much of this was made possible through the aid and assistance of federal funds.

The record of the achievements of the federal agencies justifies more elaborate treatment than can be given here. We must keep in mind that many programs and new social legislation directly affects the leisure of our population through regulating hours of work, extending economic aid, electrifying rural homes, giving employment, making possible continuing education, clearing slums, and extending of health services. Affecting recreation more directly are the programs of the National Park Service, Forest Service, Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture, Work Projects Administration, National Youth Administration, Civilian Conservation

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# Bicycling—the Sport That Came Back!

*With bicycle sales mounting into astonishingly high figures; with cities setting aside bicycle trails in their parks and passing ordinances controlling the licensing of bicycles and their use; with the formation of bicycle clubs everywhere and the growing concern on the part of municipalities for making the sport as safe as possible, there can be no question of the popularity of bicycling!*

## Biking Makes the Headlines

By LORNE C. RICKERT

Director of Recreation  
Ocean City, New Jersey

**I**N THIS DAY and age when thousands of people are lulled into passivity by "easy" recreation, biking strikes an interestingly new note. There are many reasons why this old sport has been revived and is again coming into its own. Foremost, perhaps, is the economic one. Children are no longer taught that there will be two cars in every garage. Although many have still to make the discovery, the bicycle is one of the best ways of getting there at low cost. Still others look at pedaling purely from the health angle. Groups of middle-aged men and women cyclists are not an uncommon sight on the boardwalks of many of

Milwaukee boys go adventuring in Michigan under the sponsorship of the Optimist Club

our beach cities and on trails throughout the country.

Biking is becoming more and more a social activity. In its reincarnation it has blossomed forth as a group activity. As a means of getting there in a hurry the bicycle still leaves much to be desired; as a way of really seeing the countryside it has few rivals. It will take you along smooth highways, over gravel roads, through thickets, and when finally a path is no longer available it can be pushed with little effort. By virtue of these characteristics, the bicycle can take you to places inaccessible by automobile. Since the greatest speed you can attain is merely "loafing," by modern standards, you can linger long enough really to enjoy your surroundings. We are prone nowadays to appraise scenery by the extensive amount rather than to value it for its intensive worth.

Outside of these arguments, biking gives one a feeling of achievement and mastery. Recreation lead-



Courtesy Cycle Trades, Inc.



Courtesy Cycle Trades, Inc.

ers are becoming more and more convinced, in a world with so much of it vicariously and synthetically enjoyed, that recreation involving activity and exertion of some kind, whether mental or physical, as biking does, has an exhilarative and a strengthening effect.

#### Blazing the Trail

Last June the author was one of a party of eight pioneers who circled the city of Milwaukee on a trail-blazing bike trip in which a route, mostly over secondary roads and by-paths, was charted. Among the cyclists were Sam Snead, Boy Scout Commissioner, who had visualized such a trail for the scouts, Harold S. (Zip) Morgan, Milwaukee's Director of Municipal Athletics, and Louis Pierron, grand old man of bicycling, who has reached the age of 69 on a steady diet of bike trips.\* It was felt by the sponsors that this expedition would do much to eliminate the danger of pedaling through heavily-traveled thoroughfares and

\* Mr. Pierron has, for the last ten or twelve years, been taking birthday trips with mileages equivalent to his age. Plans are already being made for a special seventy mile trip on his next birthday. In 1929 he pedaled from Milwaukee to the Pacific coast and last summer to the New York World's Fair, covering a hundred miles per day. He is also a collector of old bicycles, of which he has accumulated a rare display, including many "jalopies" of ancient vintage.

traffic hazards. The end product of the trip was a map showing biking enthusiasts how to circle Milwaukee through beautiful surroundings without becoming involved in traffic snarls. Added to the map was a prospectus showing the outing and camping facilities of the various county parks through which the expedition had passed.

#### Organizing the Trip

Encouraged by their leaders, Milwaukee recreation workers have organized bike hikes with great success. To promote these, much persuasive effort was necessary, since group bike trips are still something comparatively new. But club leaders had sufficient faith in the worth of biking as a co-recreational group activity to see it through its darkest hours. Much advertising was done through posters, bulletin board notices, and personal solicitation.

The first trip undertaken from the Auer Avenue Social Center on a gray, threatening, fall day interested only nine participants. The following spring a brief notice resulted in a turnout of over twenty. There is every indication that subsequent outings of this nature will bring even wider participation with less effort, so thoroughly has biking sold itself. A promotional short cut can be made by having some club or gang already in existence sponsor the trip and invite friends. For reasons of safety, and because leadership will suffer if too many make the trip, twenty or so is a desirable number.

"Zip" Morgan, who has done a great deal of hosteling here and abroad, suggests that each one of the party on a bike trip be given some responsibility. One of his Milwaukee expeditions included a mechanic, a navigator, and a photographer, and the boys who were given these assignments actually studied and practiced their prospective duties! The recreation leader is interested largely in short excursions which can be organized readily at a recreation center, which are not too strenuous for girls and boys and require no previous training. Assignments in the way of program planning should, however, be made. If

a club is sponsoring the trip, interest can be increased by selecting, by democratic methods, such officials as mess masters, navigators, chief repairmen. Recreation leaders should never forget to make promotional partners out of boys and girls by giving them certain responsibilities on the trip. A round trip of from twelve to thirty miles is suggested. If a greater distance is chosen there will be stragglers. Furthermore, much of the attraction of the bike hike will be the program at the destination, so be sure to leave plenty of time and energy for that.

#### A Co-Recreational Trip

A co-ed bike trip was undertaken with unusual success at Ocean City, New Jersey, on November 10th. High school students, when queried, showed great interest in mixed biking. The Teachers' Convention provided the day off necessary for the occasion. The local newspaper assisted greatly in publicizing the event. Sixteen boys and girls participated. At the destination, seven miles from their starting point, the group, divided into teams of boys and girls, were soon busy carrying stones from a nearby rock pile to the fireplaces they were constructing. In a short time they were happily roasting hot dogs, apples, and marshmallows on a mound overlooking the nearby lake. A treasure hunt over the surrounding countryside followed, with the losers required to remain behind the winners all the way back. And, to the prospective promoter of bike trips—by all means take along a camera! Good times recorded on film always whet the appetite for more such fun and will do much to encourage others to try it.

#### Touring on a Bike

There is no doubt but that the American Youth Hostels have added impetus to the biking movement. This organization has made bike outings possible at a dollar a day, including food and lodgings. In making the Milwaukee loop the cyclists stopped at the Wauwatosa Hostel, where the congenial house parents gave them a friendly greeting. These hostels have been set up to serve those traveling under their own power and extend, chain-like, across various sections of the country. Two days of pedaling was recommended in making the sixty-eight-mile loop, with an overnight stop at the Wauwatosa Hostel. The hostels provide, for more sanguine bike enthusiasts, an op-

portunity really to "go places" at a trivial cost which can be met by anyone.

There are quicker ways of getting about when one is pressed for time, but pedaling is providing a new source of pleasure for lovers of the outdoors. There is little likelihood that the bicycle will again be used to any great extent by men and women going to work; the renaissance has brought the bicycle back for other uses. If you have plenty of time, the bike will get you there reasonably soon—and with a great deal more pleasure. People are again beginning to appreciate their scenery intensively, where the rule has been to scan it extensively. More and more couples are spending bicycle vacations. The little black patches that whiz by automobile windows have become a revelation to them. Groups are issuing from meeting places throughout the country for social recreation, the occasion being a renaissance of the versatile little black steed. Theirs is the delight of mastery, the opportunity to ride side by side and really to see what lies behind those grotesque images many of the American public are letting slip by.

### Safety for Cyclers

By JESSIE SCHOFIELD  
Superintendent of Public Recreation  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**I**N RECENT YEARS, the revival of interest in bicycling by young and old alike has opened a new problem for park and recreation departments. What used to be a means of locomotion, as well as sport, for people during the gay nineties is now a leading pastime. Its value as a mode of exercise as well as enjoyment is unsurpassed.

Bicycle clubs have had a mushroom growth. Bicycle shops have included rental of machines by the hour and new shops have been opened to meet the needs of the revival. Not only is the small boy riding more but his older sisters and brothers, and mother and father as well, are finding the joy and activity that comes from balancing down the road on two wheels.

This development in bicycling presents problems to a modern city. Gone are the lanes winding around the countryside. Gone are the dirt roads with slow moving horse and buggies. In their places are paved streets with fast moving traffic.

Bicycling is easier on a hard-surfaced road, but safety comes before pleasure. Sidewalks are safer than the street for a small boy on a bicycle, but when riding there he is a hazard to the pedestrian for whom sidewalks were built.

Last year, the Police Department in Salt Lake City was asked by the Parent-Teacher Association to provide a safe place for boys and girls to ride their bicycles. The matter was referred to the Park Department.

For the last few years the park roads have been closed to automobiles in the early morning hours and reserved for bicycle riding. It is great fun, in the cool, crisp hours of the morning, to cycle around the park, but when the day's traffic starts to roll, when the park drives are filled with an ever-streaming maze of cars, bicycle riders are in jeopardy.

A year ago, under the supervision of P. H. Goggin, Commissioner of Parks and Public Property for Salt Lake City, a forward step was made to provide a safe, yet enjoyable place in which to cycle.

When Liberty Park, the largest park in Salt Lake City, was built, a bridle path was constructed. With the growth of the city, horseback riding and riding academies moved nearer the canyons. The bridle paths, idle for many years, were converted into lanes for bicycle riding only.

Signs were made of galvanized iron and painted with "This Walk for Bicycles Only" or "This Walk Set Aside for Bicycle Riding," and others, "End of Lane." A sign of some sort was placed at strategic parts to designate the lanes.

Pedestrians are asked to use regular walks. The lanes do not cross any traffic drives, though

The bridle path in one of Salt Lake City's parks has become a bicycle lane, and there are signs to direct the cycler on his way



some are parallel to them. The lanes traverse some of the lovely beauty spots in the park. They are lined with trees and consequently are lovely and cool. They have solved the problem of bicycling there.

A rack is provided at one of the entrances to the bicycle trail where bicycles may be locked while the owners participate in other activities the park affords. Bicycle shops cooperate by telling new patrons of the bicycle lanes.

The project has been so well received that tracks or lanes are being built in other parks. Salt Lake City is hoping to increase the interest in cycling, yet decrease its traffic hazards.

### In Other Cities

*Manhattan, Kansas.* The Manhattan Bicycle Club was organized by the students of the Junior High School in 1937. Committees drew up a code, a set of rules, a membership card, and a license card. The Safety Council of the Chamber of Commerce and the City Commissioners approved and endorsed the club.

*Boston, Mass.* The Boston Bicycle Club is a famous old organization which celebrated its 60th anniversary in 1938.

*Reading, Pa.* The Junior and Senior Bicycling Clubs for girls were organized in 1935. The program includes breakfast rides, all day rides, scavenger hunts, picnic rides, splash rides, and overnight camping trips.

*New York City.* The College Cycle Club has "no dues, no fees, no charges, no mailing list." All expenses are shared. Last July and August the Club made a tour of Mexico, traveling about fifty miles a day.

# The Twenty-Fourth Recreation Congress

**One who stood in the "marketplace of Play"  
gives her impression of the wares offered!**

We stood in the marketplace of Play and listened to the merchants calling their wares.

They were selling us a merchandise that had strange weave and lustre. For one booth hung out a baseball bat and a deep knee bend; one a square dance and a woven basket; one the grave cloth of citizenship; and still another the hunger of the spirit. But they were all play; they were the wares these merchants were selling.

The men from the hills and valleys and the sea-coasts who came with the pennies of their understanding to buy merchandise might well have felt intent, confused. They walked in the bazaar of Bagdad, with many a bright and glittering ware hung out for their gaze. There were many voices among the merchants. There was the salty, balanced voice of Boston Town; the schooled and adult tone of New York State; the young and lusty and adventurous voice of the Middle West; the gentle plea of the South; the bland, alert accent of the West Coast. The music of the drum and bugle playing in the square was a fine companionship, and the Inn at the corner gave for food the strong dish of opinion.

The travelers threw down their pennies and bought lavishly. They carried home hope in their knapsacks, and memories in a silver wrapping, and the new dependable tools of their business. One traveler told his fellow that his merchandise was a fruit that the more he pared, the more skins appeared, urgent and unfamiliar. And the scribes of Boston Town listened and wrote, so that the fame of the marketplace spread very widely.

The host at the Inn that fed the travelers was not a man, but a spirit. He was the spirit of a man who held that education could get more from one wide-eyed rebel than from a regiment of conformists. A first-hand man, acquainted with laughter; a man who thought that playgrounds were a right thing for children, so spent his life working to provide them—a man called Joseph Lee. His spirit was omnipresent. You could feel

*By JOSEPHINE BLACKSTOCK  
Director of Playgrounds  
Oak Park, Illinois*

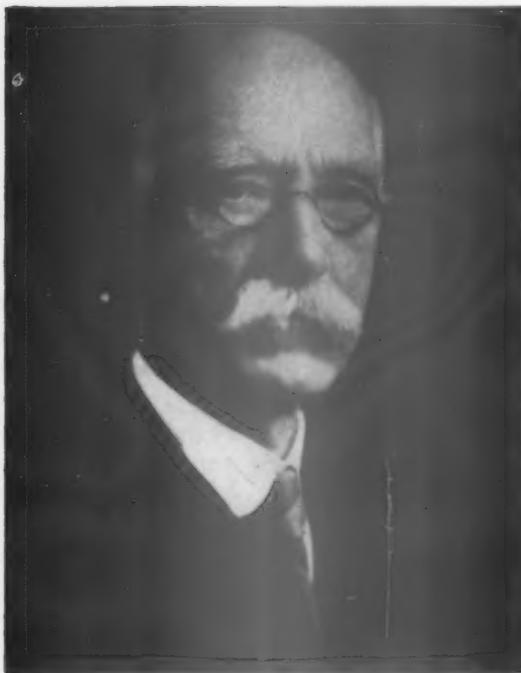
his fingers closing about the gavel that—made from a tree on the host's own grounds by Ernst Hermann, a great player in his own right—presided over the proceedings when the merchantmen and travelers met to share their notions of an evening.

But the host had left his mantle to another man who carried on in his stead and assigned the guests to the rooms of thought in the Inn. He was John H. Finley, a man with a heart that the years could not touch, and a mind that knew both old and new wisdoms.

And what of the wares? There was the distaff and shuttle of Abba Hillel Silver, who contended that men supplemented the deficiencies of human life with the arts, with sports, with play, holding that the creative use of free time was one of the great pillars that upheld the nation's temple of Government. There was the man who set up the scaffolding of the marketplace, Thomas E. Rivers.

There was the purple and fine linen trappings of the booth of six great teachers, Ernest M. Best, Daniel L. March, Leonard Carmichael, William Mather Lewis, Paul D. Moody and Hugh P. Baker, who thought that leisure was the time men had to serve the community, that play was the revitalizing thing that gave men strength, ability and faith, that extracted a new alchemy from friendship. There was the solidly decked counter of Paul V. McNutt with its wares of recreation come-of-age. There was play and happiness, the branch of aloe that Frank Kingdon made to blossom. There was Ralph L. Lee selling the convincing theme that in the freedom of compulsion and the liberty to indulge natural desires, lay the backbone of recreation, while Henry W. Holmes leant across the years and evoked the flavor, the thrill, the humor and the glory of play in tribute to the spirit of Joseph Lee.

The warp and woof of every ware in the marketplace was a national way of life, and the discussion leaders laid out a many-sided fabric for the buyers. There was Tam Deering's stress on



JOSEPH LEE

He was host, in spirit, at the  
Inn which fed the travelers

the qualities that go to make up leaders; V. K. Brown, pioneering man, who contended that recreation must be experienced in order to savor its reality; Otto T. Mallory, who has tasted play and known its bounty; Charles English, who believed that men should build abilities to discriminate, judge and set standards both for themselves and their community; William G. Vinal, knowing some wise things about natural laws and forces; A. D. Zanzig, who had caught some native rhythm, some beat of men's hearts; George Hjelte, giving sound counsel in the protection of a national way of living; Harry Overstreet setting new bounds and horizons; Ethel Bowers, wise and tried in her skills; Eva W. White, who offered sage counsel in the training of leaders; and there were the tempered and witty adages of Franklin Dunham.

And lastly there was a man who stood back while others took the kudos and hurrahs, one Howard Braucher, who thought that buildings might crumble and disappear, but Socrates, Aristotle, Plato, the words of the Sermon on the Mount and the Man who wrote the Sermon, would never be forgotten; Howard Braucher, who would rather have helped free a person like Joseph Lee to live and work and play as he did than to have built all the buildings of the world.

The sun set and the shadows gathered, and the bright wares were folded and put away, and the banners struck. The travelers journeyed home with full hearts. Many of them felt the assurance that there was growing up a new social consciousness in their country, a new knowledge and pride in its native crafts and music, its legends and dances; a new belief in the right of every man to dignity of living; a new responsibility for a form of Government that lays down the pursuit of happiness as one of its planks. One traveler had the feeling that in that overflowing marketplace, perhaps only one kind of merchandise had failed to be laid openly enough on the counter, the primary and major motive of play — joy, that essence golden and unassailable, of the wares called Play.

JOHN H. FINLEY

He "assigned the guests to the  
rooms of thought at the Inn"



"One cannot catch in cold type the real meaning or even the essence of the Boston Recreation Congress. . . . One must actually attend a Congress to feel the power of the recreation movement. This was true of the Twenty-Fourth National Recreation Congress in Boston. This meeting in the home of Joseph Lee was especially blessed. His memory and his spirit seemed to hover about us throughout the week." —T. E. Rivers, Secretary, Recreation Congress Committee.

# Education Moves Out—

Abandoned school buildings may be valuable recreational assets



THE LITTLE red school house will soon be a thing of the past. School enrollments are on the decrease, but the urban school built in the late nineties and now abandoned by school districts, still has possibilities. The heating plant might be inadequate, the building an architectural monstrosity, nevertheless, eight rooms in an outmoded school building can be made useful for recreation purposes.

This has been successfully demonstrated in Reading, Pennsylvania, where a tremendous building program on the part of the Reading School District over the past ten years, aided by the allocation of PWA funds, has resulted in the abandonment of several grade school buildings for the large consolidated unit.

An Interracial Committee of the Council of Social Agencies, of which the superintendent of recreation is a member, was the instrument for acquiring the use of the first abandoned school building. For a period of one year the Interracial Committee gathered facts from the Bureau of Census on the number of Negroes in each ward of the city, studied the needs and objectives of an Interracial Center, and figured costs to submit later on when the Board of Education, Board of Recreation and City Council were approached.

# Recreation Moves In

By THOMAS W. LANTZ

Superintendent of Public Recreation  
Reading, Pennsylvania

Finally, the Interracial Committee appealed to the Board of Education for the use of an unused grade school building with the understanding that the building would be turned over to the Board of Recreation to administer and finance. The committee, composed of Negroes and white citizens, was immediately granted the use of the old building.

The Interracial Committee had already secured the cooperation of the Board of Recreation in the financing of the new project, and the Board had included an item in the recreation budget. Both the Board of Recreation and the Interracial Committee appeared before City Council at budget meetings and the request for money to finance the leadership, supplies, coal and light, was granted without question.

Today, a nineteenth century grade school is being used for a twentieth century recreation program. Eight spacious rooms formerly used for readin', writin' and 'rithmetic are the recreation rooms of the children and adults. The first floor of the old school lends itself admirably for a combination library and office, a table tennis room, a fully equipped boxing room and a quiet game room. On the second floor there are an arts and craft room, a space for sewing and home economics, a combination room used for music, dramatics, clubs, and an active game room. Shower baths have been installed in the basement.

## A Craft Shop in One School

Now that the precedent has been set by the Board of Education, and because of the successful operation of the Interracial Center, other

(Continued on page 587)

## Robert Marshall

**R**OBERT MARSHALL, Chief of the Division of Recreation and Lands, United States Forest Service, died suddenly on Saturday, November 11, 1939, while traveling from Washington to New York City.

"Bob" Marshall, as he was known to everyone, was born on January 2, 1901. He was graduated from the College of Forestry, Syracuse University, in 1924, took graduate work at Harvard Forest School, and received a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1930 in the study of plant physiology.

Bob entered the Forest Service on June 19, 1925, as Junior Forester at the Northern Rocky Mountain Experiment Station, and was promoted to Assistant Silviculturist in August 1927. In 1928, after a leave of absence on other scientific work, he resigned from the Forest Service to become Director of Forestry, United States Indian Service, Washington, D. C., a position which he held until May 1937, when he returned to the Forest Service as Chief of the Division of Recreation and Lands. He was a Senior Member of the Society of American Foresters, Explorers Club and Wilderness Society.

While in the Indian Service, he was instrumental in obtaining a higher degree of participation by the Indians, in the management of their forest and range resources. He was a leading factor in the establishment of approximately 4,829,000 acres of Indian reservation land as roadless and wild areas.

As Chief of the Division of Recreation and Lands, his leadership was particularly effective in crystallizing the Forest Service's recreation policies as a whole, and in emphasizing the development of facilities for those in the lower-income groups and the preservation of wilderness areas.



He was thoroughly convinced that for many people the forests constitute the most precious environment for recreation. During the last two years, largely through his influence, twelve organization camps were constructed, to be operated in cooperation with civic and other organizations which often defray part or all of the vacation expenses of groups that otherwise could not afford such camping experiences.

Bob Marshall's favorite recreation was to walk and camp in the wilderness areas and in remote places. He spent over a year north of the Arctic Circle in Wiseman, Alaska, and then wrote "Arctic Village," a description of the life there which received national attention. In 1938 and 1939 he returned to Alaska for his vacations, spending his time exploring the wilderness and making notable contributions to the maps of that area. His adventures on these trips are recorded in two pamphlets, "Doonerak or Bust," 1938, and "North Doonerak, Amawk and Apoon," 1939. He was a walker of renown and considered a forty-mile hike over rough mountain trails as a day's pleasure. He once walked seventy miles in twenty-four hours in order to make suitable connections for a trip.

Bob Marshall's death is an irreparable loss to the cause of conservation and forest recreation since it cuts short his invaluable service in the interest of the contribution of the forests to the welfare of the people as a whole, rather than of their exploitation and enjoyment by a few. His life was largely devoted to the enthusiastic and fearless furtherance of those interests, and the results of his thought and action will have a lasting effect.

*(Continued on page 588)*

# Recreational Music

AM STRONGLY in favor of musical toys, particularly when they contain some of the fundamentals of actual instruments. A toy drum easily leads to a real one. A small xylophone or set of bells is the logical forerunner of a piano, and a toy trumpet, even when limited in range and a bit uncertain of pitch, can act as a stimulus to more significant wind exercises of the future.

Is it a sign of the times that our toyshops are filled with imitations of the whole machinery of death by violence—rifles, machine guns, cannon, bombs, torpedoes, pistols, helmets, uniforms, and toy soldiers? The gangster and the murderer, legal or illegal, seem to be brought consistently to the attention of the young generation through their playthings. Outside the toy arsenal that forms so large a percentage of the current nursery equipment there is a Valhalla containing four deities—Charlie McCarthy, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Snow White—a wooden dummy and three series of drawings.

Musical toys can be found if you look for them, but it is not easy to find them. There are two kinds—those that require no skill whatever, beyond perhaps the turning of a crank, and those that encourage whatever musical gift a child may have and at least some slight initiative and control for performance. The market is sadly lacking in toys that produce really musical effects, playing in tune and with a pleasing quality of tone, perhaps even with some degree of permanent stability. There should be miniature pianos, trumpets, saxophones, organs, and other instruments that would create enough interest and permit a good enough performance to lead directly to the real thing.

To a certain extent this is being accomplished by the manufacturers of musical instruments. There is a small reed organ of decidedly musical quality, already very popular with children. The tiny "butterfly" piano, with its double wings and short keyboard, goes far beyond the tinkling toy pianos of the past.

Adults and children alike should enjoy playing a "recorder," similar to the ancient instrument of

By SIGMUND SPAETH

Through the courtesy of Dr. Spaeth, famous "Tune Detective," it has been made possible for us to reprint this chapter from his new book, *Music for Fun*, published by Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., New York.

the same name. It is made of wood, with holes pierced like those of a flute, but played from the end, and its tone is excellent, with an accurately pitched scale of two octaves.

## Primitive Wind Instruments

The ordinary tin flutes and pipes will always be popular, regardless of their musical effect, and a good deal can actually be accomplished even with these primitive instruments. There is much to be said also for the ocarina, or "sweet potato," which now comes in four sizes, making a complete quartet possible. (It was used in that way by four cowboys interpreting the song, *I'm bidin' my time*, in Gershwin's operetta, *Girl Crazy*.) The ocarina can be played quite musically, and is a popular member of the hillbilly orchestra, but it is primarily a most practical and nondisturbing toy.

Also heard in professional groups of the hillbilly type is the trombone flute, which consists of a double sliding tube and raises or lowers its pitch by simply extending or contracting the total length. Accuracy is difficult, and the quality is much the same as a rather hollow whistle, but it is lots of fun for young and old. The Hoosier Hot Shots, popular dispensers of rural music on programs of Uncle Ezra's National Barn Dance, make good use of the trombone flute, as well as of a washboard for rhythm (produced by thimbles on the fingers), a cowbell and several different auto horns.

The principle of guessing at pitch and sliding to and from a tone (employed by a number of singers, both amateur and professional) is illustrated by some percussion instruments, as well as such primitive pipes as the trombone flute. Chief among them is the Flexotone, a piece of flexible steel fastened to a handle and set in vibration by hammers attached to both sides. The player shakes the Flexotone to produce a musical sound, raising the pitch by pressing on the steel with his thumb and lowering it by relieving the pressure. Small Flexotones are used chiefly as rattles, but the larger ones produce a really lovely, ethereal tone, and used to be common in dance bands.

### Reviving Old Saws

Closely related to the Flexotone is the musical saw, which likewise has its pitch varied by the bending of the steel. It is usually held by crossing the knees over the handle, with one hand guiding the small end while the other starts the tone with a bow or a hammer. The beauty of the saw-music is in the changes of pitch after vibration has begun, giving the effect of pure air waves in musical motion. An ordinary crosscut saw can be used, although it is now possible to buy saws specially made for music. It takes a professional to perform on them really well, but the adult amateur can get plenty of fun in trying.

### Music in the Air

A quality of tone somewhat similar to that of the musical saw and the Flexotone is produced by the Theremin, named for its inventor and still something of a mystery to the American public. Theremin, a Russian who came to this country some years ago, simply harnessed the squeal of radio and made it possible for people to draw tunes out of the air by shaking their hands close to an upright antenna. The closer the fingers, the higher was the resulting tone. Volume was controlled by passing the left hand over a coiled antenna below. It is, of course, impossible to play more than a single line of melody on the Theremin, and accuracy of pitch and rapidity of execution still present problems for all but the leading experts.

### No Talent Required

The most encouraging thing about actual toys of a musical nature is that so many of them are made for children too young to do any real playing but unquestionably sensitive to rhythm, melody, and harmony. There is a great variety of music boxes today, requiring nothing more than the turning of a handle or even rolling along the floor, but producing something that has a definite musical appeal. In most cases the response of the ear is encouraged by some colorful decoration, often en-

listing the cooperation of the familiar characters of the nursery, right down to Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Snow White.

Why should not musical instruments appeal to the eye as well as the ear? Part of the fascination of a trap drummer unquestionably lies in the variety and color of his gorgeous equipment, and bagpipers have a big advantage over ordinary piccolo-players. The instruments used by Shan-kar and other Oriental dancers always create a pictorial effect which the Occidental symphony orchestra completely lacks. Our toymakers are wise in their combinations of music and color and human interest.

Thus even the smallest toddler can pull or push a roller along the floor, listening to the musical pattern that emerges from it and at the same time watching a kaleidoscope of Disney characters or other colorful decorations. There are several varieties of musical tops which hum a pleasing harmony as they spin. There is a splendid replica of a pipe organ, producing five different chords of fairly good quality at the mere turn of a handle.

A doll can be rocked in a cradle that plays *Rock-a-bye, Baby* automatically, and a rocking-chair produces similar music when either a child or a doll sits in it. Musical vehicles for pulling along the floor include a trailer that plays *Jack and Jill*, and a Donald Duck, perched over a seven-keyed xylophone, which he plays mechanically from the ends to the middle and back again as he merrily rolls along.

### Music Through Perforations

Perhaps the most elaborate of the music boxes is the Melody Player, whose crank handle causes perforated rolls to revolve, producing reedy but charming pieces, of considerable variety. A roll of *The Star-Spangled Banner* comes with each instrument, and extra rolls can be purchased at very reasonable prices, the repertoire including such favorites as *America*, *Dixie*, *Yankee Doodle*, *Home, Sweet Home*, *Auld Lang Syne*, *Silent Night*, and *Carry Me Back to Old Virginny*. Here, by the way,

"Some years ago that distinguished educator, Peter Dykema, head of the music department of Columbia University's Teachers College, appeared at a luncheon of the New York Kiwanis Club. He came armed with a great variety of musical toys—drums, rattles, horns, cuckoos—and he distributed them among the Kiwanians before beginning his talk. No sooner did the dignified businessmen have the toys in their hands than they one and all set up a terrific din. Dr. Dykema watched them blandly as he let the noise go on for a few minutes. Then he raised his hand for silence. 'The next time your youngsters make a noise like that,' he said quietly, 'remember how you reacted to the same temptation.' In a short time he had organized the meeting into an excellent rhythm band, and with one good musician at the piano they were able to play their new game as creditably as their own children might have done."

is the substitute for the phonograph or personal performance by parents in their children's earliest days, with twenty-four world-famous melodies quite adequately played with no effort at all, beyond the turning of a crank.

Music boxes and toys that wind up and go through motions, besides producing music, are also varied and practical. There is a mechanical drummer who should be an inspiration to any rhythm-minded child. There is an Aero Swing that plays the bugle notes, and a merry-go-round with a distinct pattern of primitive melody.

Christmas trees can be had that revolve and play *Silent Night* simultaneously. A musical lamp performs similarly to the tune of *Rock-a-bye, Baby*. Swiss music boxes are hidden in miniature pianos which need only to be wound up. There is a gaily decorated hurdy-gurdy topped by a dancing monkey; a village with moving windmill and animals, playing *Lightly Row*; and a "television set" which turns out to be a series of *Jack and Jill* pictures accompanied by their own traditional music.

One type of toy piano controls moving figures (*Little Bo-peep* and *Mickey Mouse*) above the keyboard, which covers an octave and is played by hand. A set of musical blocks produces a variety of tones when individually squeezed. But my own favorite remains a kazoo running into a board on which the loose-jointed figure of a tap dancer can be made to move rhythmically while one hums any good, lively tune.

When it comes to musical toys that can really be played, percussion leads the way and proves most satisfactory in the long run. Toy drums are almost as good as the real thing, and, if they break more easily, that may turn out to be no great hardship. They have their pictorial side, too, which compensates for any possible lack of aesthetic tone quality. A drum or a rattle is the quickest and easiest reminder of our savage background, and the appeal of rhythmic noise is by no means limited to the very young. I have seen, at night clubs, otherwise dignified men whose greatest treat was to be allowed to play the drums with the orchestra. Incidentally, youthful drummers can

**"In developing the Art, man first handled the materials of natural things about him, experimented with the nature of sound, made his own instruments and improved them, and through these experiences grew in musical power and appreciation. The child too will grow musically if he is given the opportunity to experiment with elemental things—to explore, investigate, build, discard, and build again; to use the product of his handiwork, to sing and dance, make poetry, make instruments and improve upon them; to wield materials that are within his own ken."**—*Satis N. Coleman in Creative Music in the Home*.

develop their skill and a large repertoire by simply drumming with phonograph records or the radio. It is an absorbing game, though not exactly a quiet one.

### Bells, Bells, Bells

All the variations of bells and the xylophone appear in toyland, as well as in professional and amateur music. Generally they are dressed up to look impressive, sometimes with imitation amplifiers of the marimba and vibraphone type, but they generally play in tune and the quality of tone is not bad at all.

The Japanese manufacture a very cheap set of bells for children, but the American sets are worth the difference in price because they are supplied with little music books containing several tunes that can be played by the numbers corresponding to the bar bells. These bells have a definite educational significance, in addition to their practical value as toys. Arthur S. Garbett, who directs and prepares the splendid Standard School Broadcasts in California, under sponsorship of the Rockefeller Foundation, has experimented successfully with simple sets of bells in the classroom and in the nursery, and believes they are the logical foundation of creative as well as interpretive work in music.

Toy pianos in general are not very satisfactory, and the various string and wind instruments have not as yet lent themselves to successful imitation. There are tin trumpets, saxophones, and trombones which look interesting and produce a number of tones with fair accuracy of pitch; but the quality of tone is not particularly musical and their life is likely to be limited, as the reeds give out and the tubes become bent.

### Homemade Musical Toys

If a household cannot afford the better type of musical toys, it is perhaps wiser to attempt home manufacture, and this in itself makes a wonderful game. In place of bells, one can always use glasses of water, partly filled, playing upon them with teaspoons, knives, or forks, or, perhaps more safely, with a lightly tapping pencil. The pitch of each glass varies even when it is empty, and the one with the lowest tone should be selected for

the bottom of the scale. The higher notes are achieved by simply pouring in enough water for each desired pitch. This may be considerable trouble, but it is worth it. With any luck, you should get at least an octave, perhaps with the half-tone steps of the chromatic scale, and this is about as much of a setup as can conveniently be handled by one person with two sticks.

Wine glasses generally give better tones than tumblers, but be careful not to hit them too hard. A thin glass will give out a lovely, light tone when the rim is rubbed with wet fingers. This was the principle of the old-fashioned "musical glasses" mentioned by Oliver Goldsmith, for which Handel once composed some special music.

How many people know that the common or laundry pin is musical? If you hammer a row of pins into a board, with most of their length protruding, each one will give out a different musical tone when touched by the point of another pin. The shortest pins will sound the highest notes, and the longer ones will be lower in pitch. A complete scale can be worked out with a little patience and a good ear, or the series can be made to play a simple tune in the order of the pins, so that you merely run down the line without worrying about the order of the notes.

This, by the way, is the principle of many music boxes, with a central pin merely revolving and striking different metal pieces in turn. A pin-wheel organ can be made by setting pins in a circle on a board, tuned so that one round produces a complete melody. Then a revolving disk is set in the middle, with a pin protruding just far enough to strike each pin in the circle as the disk is whirled around. If you can make the disk revolve by means of a paper pin-wheel above, set in motion by blowing, you have a fine specimen of homemade, mechanical organ.

A drum, of course, can be made of any sort of tin can or wooden box. Down in Trinidad, where the natives make up songs about visitors on the spur of the moment, big oil cans are popular as the basis of the rumba rhythms. Gourds of all kinds make splendid percussion instruments, as is demonstrated in the typical Cuban, Mexican, and Hawaiian music.

#### Bones, Wood, and Cans

The clappers of minstrelsy's end men were originally actual bones, which explains why the interlocutor invariably called one of his wing comedians "Mr. Bones," while the other was "Mr.

Tambo," obviously armed with a tambourine. Sticks of hard wood, rattled together make a good substitute for the Spanish castanets, and there are those who can get complicated rhythmic effects from a pair of tablespoons. Practical clappers, a variation of the Flexotone principle, can be bought cheap or can be made at home by attaching drops of lead to pieces of wood by flexible strips of metal, like the supports of an old-fashioned corset.

Boys of a past generation used to take the round top of a tin can, pierce two holes in it, and run a double string through them. After a good twisting, the tin disk could be made to revolve rapidly in two directions, by simply pulling on the strings with both hands and then relaxing them. A soft hum, like that of a musical top, was the result, kinder to adult ears than the insistent beating that any metal surface seems inevitably to invite.

Children can make their own xylophones out of wooden slabs knocked out of an ordinary soapbox. By whittling the pieces, they will arrive at definite pitch, the smaller and thinner pieces giving out the higher tones. Musical quality is naturally attained only with careful workmanship and specially selected wood, skillfully set over a frame permitting freedom of vibration.

#### Musical Bottles and Boxes

Another musical-comedy device seen in vaudeville and primitive shows is a "bottle organ," made of glass bottles of various sizes—hence, producing a variety of pitch—perhaps with a metal can or two for the lowest notes. They are strung on a frame, like the chimes of a symphony orchestra, and produce at least an amusing effect of limited melody. The bottle organ is obviously the poor relation or country cousin of the musical glasses.

Homemade banjos and other stringed instruments are good fun and sometimes not at all bad musically. A cigar box fitted with a neck of solid wood has been the traditional basis of such music. The strings can be of wire or gut, and even rubber bands have been known to serve in a modest way. The chief problem is to keep them in tune for an adequate length of time, and this can be accomplished by carefully whittled pegs. Bobby Edwards used to accompany his original songs in Greenwich Village with a homemade, cigar-box ukulele, and it sounded fine.

Wind instruments of a sort also can be made at home. Primitive musicians used conch shells and the horns of cattle for blowing signals, although

they must have been of indefinite pitch. (Siegfried's horn, in the opera, would be rather helpless without the cooperation of the skilled horn player in the orchestra.)

Youngsters living in the country generally know how to secure a piercing blast of sound from blades of grass held between the thumb muscles of the two hands. This trick contains the basic principle of single and double reeds, whose tone is due to the vibration of cane surfaces, either by direct contact with the breath, in a mouthpiece, or clashing together in pairs, as in the oboe.

A more musical tone can be secured by cutting a piece of cane or some other tubular wood, hollowing it out, piercing it with one or more holes, stopping one end, and perhaps inserting a cane mouthpiece at the other. The immediate result is a primitive whistle, but the whistle can be made into an actual flute or basic clarinet by careful workmanship in placing the holes and figuring out the best length of tube.

Many kindergartens, schools, and camps now make a feature of homemade musical instruments, arguing that children will be the more inclined to play upon the pipes, banjos, or percussion devices that they have made themselves.

Finally, there is the Pan-pipe of mythology, which can become a modern reality if one has the patience to cut a series of whistles of different lengths, building a scale from the longest to the shortest, and binding or gluing them together in the order of pitch. (It should be clear by this time that small surfaces and short tubes or strings produce higher tones than do large or long ones. There we have in a nutshell the principles of pitch. The interval of an octave above any given note represents a vibrating surface or column of air exactly half the size of that which produced the original note. Thus a piccolo plays an exact octave above the regular flute, and is exactly half its length. A violin string is stopped exactly halfway to produce the tone an octave above that of the open string.)

The boy who puts together several pipes, in the manner of the great god Pan, is on his way to the building of an actual pipe organ. In fact, he could easily make some actual organ pipes of wood, if he were a good carpenter and had some instruction from an expert. We used to buy at candy stores the graduated series of Pan-pipes, made out of licorice, and sometimes we could play on them before letting them melt in our mouths.

Aside from the fun of making your own musical toys, where the process is really more important than the result, there are only a few points worth considering in the choice of things that play and can be played with. Of all the category of music boxes and mechanical music producers it is necessary only to ask how early they can be introduced into the life of a child. As long as their music is not downright horrible, it will serve. Certainly, it is better at any time than idol worship or war propaganda. For children who have little talent and less power of application, the mechanical music-maker is a godsend and can be used right up to maturity, from a Mickey Mouse roller through all the music boxes that require no more than winding or cranking, to the final ideal of the radio, the phonograph, and the electric player piano, always with the assumption of a gradually developing taste that will eventually select by preference the records and the programs that represent music of a permanent value.

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"The boy who puts together several pipes in the manner of the great god Pan is on his way to the building of an actual pipe organ"



Courtesy Work Projects Administration, New York City

# Strengthen Your Financial Base!

By WILLIAM S. PACKER  
Winchester, Massachusetts

**I**N A MUNICIPALITY where ninety per cent of the children are enrolled in the public schools it is far easier to run the local educational system than it would be in a city where only fifty per cent of the children attend public schools. The difficulty in the latter situation is that half the people, probably the more acquisitive half, regard public schools as a "hand-out" to the poor. As every educator knows, such a condition is extremely difficult. Nobody is more solicitous concerning public funds than the person who feels that he and his get nothing personally out of the expenditure!

A parallel is found in public recreation. If the program applies only to the underprivileged, the task of obtaining necessary financial support is fraught with difficulties that can be decidedly decreased when it is so planned as to offer opportunities to those in higher income brackets.

A shining example is the outdoor skating program provided in the city of Newton, Massachusetts, under the plan worked out by Dean Ernest Hermann of Sargent College of Physical Education, a department of Boston University. Mr. Hermann, when head of the Newton playgrounds, provided for good skating on forty acres of ice. The three areas are well cared for by clearing away the snow, smoothing the ice with a plane to renew the surface, and mending cracks by filling them with water in freezing weather. At night the areas are lighted. At all times order is maintained by good administration, and a checking system assures skaters of safe keeping for street shoes and wraps.

For example, there are winter sports. Some people enjoy skating and skiing but others prefer less active forms!



Courtesy Department of Public Recreation, Reading, Pa.

In a normal winter there is public skating in Newton for from fifty to sixty days. So general is the patronage that thousands of skaters may be counted on the ice in the space of twenty-four hours. Hundreds of well-to-do citizens to whom the playgrounds mean nothing at other seasons of the year look forward eagerly to the winter skating.

There is no doubt that the adequate support given to the Newton playgrounds has as one of its strongest bases the enthusiasm of skaters personally grateful for what the frozen surfaces mean to them.

In the town of Winchester, Massachusetts, tennis has been developed on a quality as well as a quantity basis, there being more tennis dubs and more good players in Winchester than anywhere around. During the late winter and early spring, Saturday tennis classes for boys and girls are conducted in the gymnasium under the guidance of one of the playground commissioners. The chief instructor is Miss Helen Boehm, the leading woman tennis professional in the East, who teaches the tennis group at the Lake Placid Club. Year after year, dozens of youngsters with excellent technique are developed in the classes. In the New England ranking for 1938, twenty ratings were given in the older and younger age groups for girls. Nine of these places were filled by Winchester girls from the public schools and the public courts. On the boys' side, three of the six singles players of the Harvard freshman tennis team in 1939 were Winchester boys.

When the town  
(Continued on  
page 588)

# 1620 Pilgrim Activities 1939

LAST SUMMER an interesting experiment was tried at the Nature Guide School at Pine Tree Camp, the national Girl Scout training school on Long Pond approximately nine miles from Plymouth Rock. Arrangements were made at the Harlow House in Plymouth for Miss Rose Briggs and other members of her staff to teach ten of the Nature Guiders the complete process of curing and spinning flax, carding wool, dyeing, and cooking in a brick oven after the manner of the Pilgrims. Although each leader will undoubtedly make a different use of what she learned, the group enjoyed the experience immensely. The four meetings demonstrated that the best education is recreation; that the most complete experiences go back to mother earth and the simple products therefrom, and the resulting units of activity which evolve out of them. In other words, the best nature recreation includes many steps of culture.

## Our Pilgrim Traditions

Many fine traditions have come down through a long line of ancestry that goes back to the Pilgrims and their qualities of strength and honesty. Reviving Pilgrim activities develops a proud tie between generations. After spinning or weaving one can look another in the eye with pride and satisfaction. The essence of the experiences at the school was to be found in the outgrowths. Because of her enthusiasm, one 1939 Pilgrim maid was bequeathed her grandmother's spinning wheel. Another leader was stimulated to write a Pilgrim play for use in her Sunday school class. A third found satisfaction in preparing an illustrated lecture on the geographical setting of the Pilgrims.

There are still to be found earth, green plants, moisture, sunshine, simple prod-

By WILLIAM G. VINAL

Director

Nature Guide School

Massachusetts State College

The pictures and the descriptions of them which are presented through the courtesy of Dr. Vinal tell their own story and indicate the wealth of material acquired by Girl Scout leaders at the Nature Guide School at Pine Tree Camp by a return to the crafts and the customs of our Pilgrim ancestors.

ucts, friends, and joy in activity.

Listening to Pilgrim Stories

Reviving Pilgrim activities is not all doing with the hands. While the brick oven was being heated at "Ye Old Harlow House" for the potful of beans, Pilgrim maidens gained satisfaction in wholesome fireside neighborliness. Perhaps the most popular dish prepared was pears baked in the hot ashes of the fireplace. The pears were washed, pricked, and placed in a creeper. To one cup of sugar were added one cup of water and sprigs of pungent lemon balm from the Harlow House herb garden. For rye and "Injun" bread the ingredients were mixed in a nappy, and the kettle was then lined with red oak leaves, shiny side up. After the mixture was poured it was covered with oak leaves, shiny side down.

The Indians taught the Pilgrims how to make succotash, the Indian name for which was Mishkutotash. According to the recipe of Mrs. Barnabas Churchill given out at the Sparrow House, it included not only beans and corn, but turnips, potatoes, salt pork, corned beef, and chicken. These later ingredients must have been added by the white man. The savory liquors from the meats make the mixture most palatable.

What does being re-created mean? Brick oven skills, social beings, or mental recreation? The principles of self-doing, creative life environment, and esthetic folklore are deeply rooted. The interest in growing flax, the feel

of making threads under the guidance of the wheel by mind and hand; the atmosphere of beauty created by weaving—all these experiences represent a new-old adventure.

"All these put their trust in their hands; and each becometh wise in his own work. Without these shall not a city be inhabited and men shall not sojourn nor walk up and down there-in."—From *Ecclesiasticus* 38:30-32.

Curing Flax



"Then after agriculture, the art of kings, take the next head of human arts, weaving, the art of queens."—From *The Mystery of Life*, by Ruskin.

Our experiment in Pilgrim activities was not so much an attempt to turn out skilled craftsmen as it was to provide the beginning of an interest that would widen and grow with experience. Such intangible results are difficult to measure, but they must be in terms of joy, lasting satisfaction, attitudes, and appreciation.

"Billie" Spins Outside Her Cabin Door



Leisure time or vacation need no longer be a vacancy with this naturalist. Overhead is a blue August sky; in the background are the brilliant hollyhocks. Can you guess what thoughts come to one while spinning? There is a fascination in the rhythm of the spinning wheel, in going back to the simple life and forward to the finer things, as did the Pilgrims, with courage and ability to do good work. This answers a deep need. Without outlets for this courage, ability, and satisfaction we are indeed poor.

Ollie Takes Her Churn



The assumption that opportunity lies beyond the rainbow is false. This student leader has an awareness of belonging to the group, has the satisfaction of being at home in the universe, and appreciates the opportunity of sharing the simple activities of the Pilgrims. She will return to her Cleveland children with the assurance of a new skill for an enriched curriculum, improved guidance, and renewed faith in the development of initiative and leadership, all looking toward a fuller life.

How Good Are You at the Old Art of Carding?



Man power is measured in human values. Man is a creator, a social being. Man has personality; he seeks satisfactions in expression, and he lives in unity.

The complete process involved in the carding of wool or spinning of flax and in the making of succotash meets these human values.

We do not want to lose what we have gained since Pilgrim days. Nor do we wish to lose sight of Pilgrim virtues.

# Trends in Public Recreation

HERE ARE several well-defined trends in recreation to which some consideration might be given. We might discuss the increasing willingness of educational authorities to plan school facilities in terms of leisure time needs, and their growing disposition to permit the use of these facilities for recreation purposes. We might discuss the tendency of art, music, homemaking, vocational and physical education teachers to stress the enduring leisure-time aspects of their respective offerings. We might even discuss the beginning use of camps as an additional facility of the school.

But these movements and others all put together do not constitute the fundamental trend that is slowly making its way into the thinking of educational leadership. These movements within the framework of organized education merely reflect the basic trend. They represent the gropings of the educational profession toward realization of the deep and fundamental needs they are obligated to satisfy. Perhaps we can arrive at an understanding of the message I want to bring to you by reference to certain recent legislation that is of significance both to schoolmen and to recreation leaders.

On September 20, last, the California Community Recreation Enabling Act became effective. This act authorizes any city, county or school district within the state, either singly or jointly, to organize recreation and (I quote) to "acquire, improve, maintain and operate recreation centers within or without the territorial limits of the public authority."

I cite this act because of the tremendous potential implications it carries for the several million adults and children of California. This act illustrates, in perfected form, the type of enabling legislation now on the statute books in a significant number of states. But what does it mean? That question now challenges municipal and school authorities in California and other states. More

## As they are seen from the viewpoint of the public schools

By HERIOT CLIFTON HUTCHINS

appropriately perhaps, our question might be stated—What *can* such enabling legislation mean to the growing generation?

It would seem to me that the authorities charged with organizing community recreation would need to find the answers to two fundamental questions if they are to render the type of leisure time service which any community has a right to expect. First—What should recreation do to the individual? You will note that I said—What should recreation do to the individual? Second—How can we bring about this change within the individual?

Before attempting to answer these questions, let me point out that when we speak of bringing about changes in people or in ways of living we must necessarily think in terms of a generation of time; furthermore we must focus our thinking and action on young children primarily, following them and succeeding generations of young children all the way through their lives.

In response to the first of these questions my answer would be just this: That recreation should enable the individual to get what we now call *leisure-time values* out of whatever he may do. In other words, recreation should engender a philosophy, or a point of view, which is so much a part of a person's habitual ways of thinking and acting that he captures recreative values, in a quiet natural manner, from his work as well as his play.

The best example of this that I know of is the man who "loves" his job—the person who can see a challenge to reach beyond the immediate task and find those values which we call re-creative.

It is more than mere variety of assignment or the financial motive that gives such a person this enthusiasm and zest for work. It is the point of view with which he approaches the task set before him.

I maintain that this man gets just as much pure recreation out of the job that he loves to do as he could get

**Dr. Hutchins, Assistant Secretary, the Educational Policies Commission, gave this address before the Society of Recreation Workers of America on October the ninth. In his introductory remarks Dr. Hutchins said: "I approach this task as one without actual experience in recreation leadership but as a worker in the field of public education who has a deep and abiding concern for the functional relationships between your field of service and mine."**

from any program of leisure time activities that you could map out for him. I maintain further that this point of view—this attitude—this state of mind can be learned and learned by the very same methods that anything else is learned. The person who loves his job because he gets from it certain spiritual as well as material values *need not be the exception*. Any normal child under the right sort of guidance can achieve the recreation point of view to such a degree that it becomes a rule of his life, if he is educated in that direction from early childhood.

Not by any stretch of the imagination would I want you to infer that what I say denies the need for exercise or for diversion. An individual cannot possibly gain all that life can give from work alone, nor from the wages he gets for that work. I do say, however, that the recreation point of view is quite as much needed in order to get the full benefits of exercise or to enjoy a diversion as it is needed in order to get real leisure-time values out of work. We have set up programs of activities designed to give diversion and exercise, but these programs have sometimes failed to take into account the state of mind of the individual in approaching his exercise or amusement.

Unwillingly we have compartmentalized our activities to such a degree that we say this is work, this is learning, this is recreation. All that we mean when we say "this is recreation" is that here is the time when we can enjoy ourselves.

I would ask, then, is there any law of nature or of man that prevents us from enjoying our work and our learning. Isn't learning very often real work? Isn't the difference entirely in the state of mind with which we approach our tasks?

The vital aspect of personality development is what the psychologists like to call "achieving individuality" or "personal integration." This involves learning self-reliance, developing a philosophy of life and the establishment of personal values. Recreation now contributes to these ends. But if we as educational and recreational workers can help the child to gain this recreation point of view, if we can engender within him those habits of thinking which permit him to realize re-creative values from whatever he may be doing—then we will have made a significant contribution to one of the most difficult of educational problems, namely, the fullest development of personality.

And now, my answer to the second question—How can we bring about this change? How can

we develop this point of view in the individual—taking him as we find him?

Manifestly this is an educational problem. It is not a school problem alone, but it is one which the school must help to solve and in a manner quite different from that in which public school authorities now approach recreation. It is not a problem for recreation or park people to tackle alone either, but they must play a large part, using again a somewhat different emphasis from that which now characterizes their efforts. Parents too can make a significant contribution to this educational task, and they will need to learn how to help largely through the efforts of the other two agencies.

This educational problem is one upon which the attack must be made at all age levels simultaneously. When we desire to change the habits of a people, the first steps are most logically taken with young children, so that the change comes to affect the whole population as succeeding generations of young children grow up. But an unsupported attack at this level is not enough. Adult conservatism is usually more than strong enough to overcome changes introduced at the childhood level, unless these adults can be educated to the change along with children. We must make our major attack, therefore, at the early childhood level, and follow it up with our approach to youth and adults.

In planning the strategy, the matter of personnel looms up most prominently. Our *first task* is to find leaders for play centers, playgrounds and community centers, and teachers of pre-school, elementary school and adult education groups particularly, who themselves have the point of view of which I have been speaking. Some teachers colleges are making a start in this direction by helping prospective teachers round out their personal development through emphasis on personal recreation. The recreation profession is likewise giving greater consideration to leaders who have this recreation point of view, rather than to those who are activity-minded. Some of the more progressive schools are doing an excellent job of educating parents to the important part they play in the pre-school education of the child.

This matter of personnel seems to me to be of primary significance because of the fact that children literally take over, in a ready-made fashion, so many of their attitudes and habits of thinking from the few persons with whom they are inti-

mately in contact. Personnel, then, is our first problem.

The second problem is that of setting up a *program* through which the recreation point of view can be established. In this effort we have an important psychological factor in our favor. By this I mean the urge to creative expression which is present in every child in some degree. This urge to express oneself, to engage in creative activity, seems to be a natural characteristic of the human organism. All we need to do is to provide the opportunity for this factor to operate.

In a few places this opportunity is *now* being provided to children. In some cities there are organized play centers for pre-school children estab-

**The urge to creative expression is present in every child to some degree**

give the child of less than five years of age the recreation point of view, as such, these experiences with nursery schools and play centers have at least shown us that the foundation can be effectively laid by helping the child develop a sense of values.

Another factor worth mentioning in this connection is that nursery schools and play centers devote a lot of emphasis to education of parents. Through repeated consultation and observation parents learn what their children are doing and what results are becoming apparent.

A second type of program identified with schools which tends to nurture the very values that we are seeking is the activity movement, generally



lished for the purpose of giving these youngsters a chance to play and to learn how to get along with other children under the most desirable circumstances. A few school systems have established nursery schools for children 2-5 years of age, with much the same purposes in view. The child becomes accustomed to simple habits of work and play, with the play motive dominant. He gets the rough edges of his egotism smoothed down through the discipline imposed by his contemporaries. He learns about growing things—pets, trees, flowers—and the many other facets of his natural environment.

These experiences give the child a sense of values. They permit him to see his own place in the scheme of things. While we cannot perhaps

identify as "progressive education." If we can discount the extremists in progressive education and look at their concept of learning through experiences, we find a program which resembles very closely what the recreation people have long been doing. I mean simply the informal, guided activities, directed toward well-defined ends, as opposed to the traditional curriculum found in so many public schools. These informal guided activities, whether carried on in progressive schools or in the more forward-looking traditional schools, are helping to give children and youth that realization of the re-creative values in work, play and learning which we so greatly desire.

And again at the adult level, we find the urge

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## Cross-Country Running in County Parks

THE STAGING of a National Interscholastic Cross Country Meet at Warinanco Park, Roselle and Elizabeth, New Jersey, on Thanksgiving Day morning, November 23, 1939, climaxed the increasing popularity of areas in the Union County Park system for this scholastic sport.

For a number of years the Park Commission has encouraged the use of the park for cross-country running. About four years ago it was decided that the cross-country layout could be greatly improved, and the Commission, in cooperation with local high school track coaches, laid out a course which followed, for two and one-half miles, footpaths, a service road and lawn areas. In the planning, advantage was taken of slopes and straightaways.

The course is marked by a line laid down with a dry lime marker. As further direction for the runners red and white flags are used. Runners keep to the right of the red flags on the way out and to the left of the white flags on the home stretch.

Although the flags are posted only for special cross-country meets, the white line, which is renewed when necessary, permits runners to practice over the actual championship course from the first week in October until the close of the cross-country season.

By F. S. MATHEWSON  
Superintendent of Recreation  
Union County, N. J., Park Commission

Two features of the Warinanco Park course have proved especially popular: first, the fact that almost the entire race may be viewed from the top deck of the stadium at the northwest end of the park; the provision made for a system of chutes to handle the finish of each race with no danger of mistakes as to order in which competitors finish, after each runner completes a lap around the quarter-mile running track.

Anyone familiar with the scoring system used in cross-country running realizes how important it is to keep the runners in line, in the order they finished, until all have been properly listed; and, at the same time, the difficulty of keeping such a record in a meet in which two hundred runners may compete can be readily appreciated.

Besides the National Meet held at Warinanco Park this year with 190 entries, a New Jersey State Interscholastic Meet with close to 250 entries, two Union County events, and nearly twenty dual school meets were held over this course. Runners from two local public and one parochial high school visited the course almost daily for practice running.

In two other county parks cross-country running was also sponsored by cooperating with the local school authorities.

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# WORLD AT PLAY

## Courses in Puppetry

conducting a Traveling Puppet Course devised for teachers, social workers, and recreation leaders. The course covers not only workshop technique, the making and operating of marionettes, but the method by which puppetry may be fitted into the recreation leader's field. Practical experience is offered in the rudiments of puppet play production. Among the courses offered the most comprehensive is one lasting a week with from two to three hour periods. Shorter courses, however, are offered. Further information may be secured from Miss Siloma Andrew of the Hamburg Puppet Guild.

## Detroit's Winter Activities

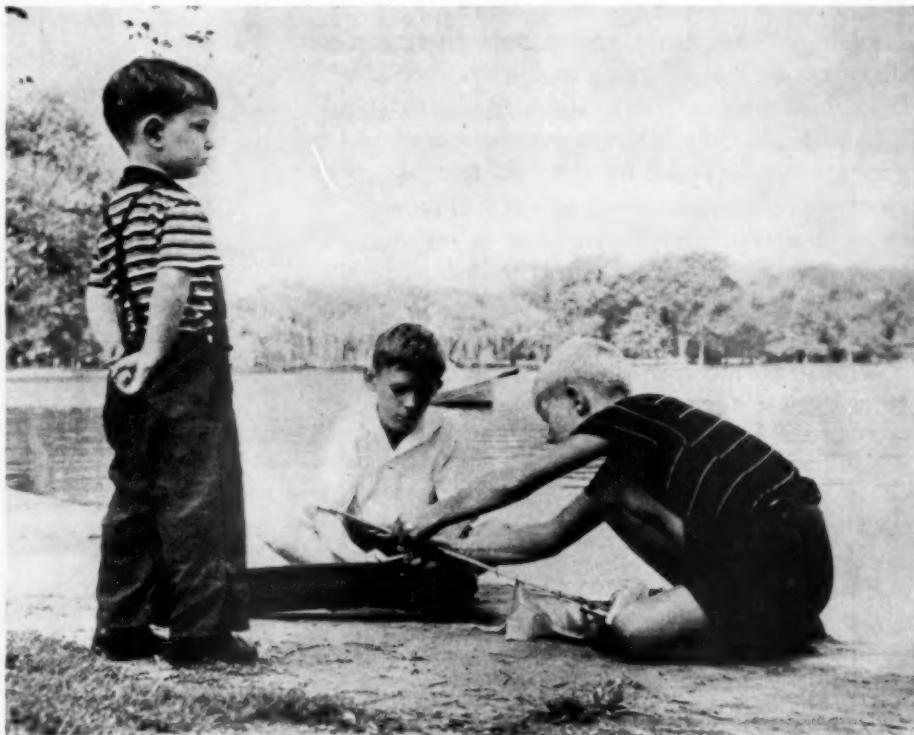
as recreation centers, Detroit, Michigan, is inaugurating a broad fall and winter recreation program. The city has been divided into one-mile circles with a center in the middle of each, so that no one will need to travel more than half a mile to a center. Seven department-owned centers will be augmented by sixteen intermediate and thirty-two elementary - school centers; additional classes will be conducted in five libraries, twenty-three church houses, five settlement houses, three orphanages, two hospitals, and three miscellaneous institutions. In these ninety-six centers,

The Hamburg Puppet Guild, 92 Hawkins Avenue, Hamburg, New York, is

emphasis will be placed on cultural craft work and social activities, without curtailing the physical program. There will be music appreciation concerts, dramatic clubs, community singing, glee clubs, modern and old-time dancing, and hobby clubs. Instruction in sewing, handicraft, sketching, woodcraft, metalcraft, model airplane and boat construction, swimming, diving, life saving, and tap dancing will be included as well.

## New York's Amateur Photo Contest

Four hundred and seventy-three photographs were submitted in the amateur photo contest sponsored by the Department of Parks of New York City. The entrants were divided into three age groups as follows: (a) children up to fourteen years of age; (b) children between fifteen and eighteen years of age; and (c) those over eighteen years old. Each competitor was permitted to submit as many pictures as he desired provided all the photographs were taken during 1939 and depicted youth or age in the parks, pools,



Courtesy Park Department, New York City

beaches, or playgrounds under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks. All the photographs submitted were on display at the American Museum of Natural History in connection with the department's handcraft exhibit held in November. The photograph shown here under the caption "Time Out for Repairs" won first place in the "c" group.

**Model Aircraft Building**—Recreation departments are increasingly taking steps not only to promote interest in aviation, but to disseminate scientific knowledge and teach the principles of aeronautics. The Department of Public Instruction at South Bend, Indiana, in its last annual report tells of the organization of an Aero Club which has been building model planes in order to study their performance in flight. Included in the program of the club is a course in flying instruction, and in the theory of flight and engine combustion.

The Playground Commission of Aurora, Illinois, has established a Ground Aviation School which has a plane and six engines and all the necessary equipment. When the course opened, 225 had enrolled, and a great deal of interest is being developed in the school.

**The Fifth Annual Camp Pow-Wow**—The fifth annual Camp Pow-Wow will be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, February 14, 15, and 16, 1940. As in the past, the 1940 Pow-Wow will serve as a means of giving practical information to camp directors and camp leaders. It will have no set formula for method or topic, and the program will be based on the requests and suggestions of the members. Recreation workers are invited to send practical suggestions to Mr. L. Noel Booth, Executive Director, The Camp Pow-Wow, in care of *Camping World*, 11 East 44th Street, New York City.

**Ohio P. T. A. Congress**—The 34th Annual Ohio Congress of Parent Teachers went into session in October in the city of Columbus, Ohio, with a series of activities, meetings, and discussions. This Congress featured a panel on "Modern Youth versus Old-Fashioned Parents" (participated in by four senior high school girls of the city), displays of P.T.A. scrapbooks, and play sessions, in addition to serious discussions of P.T.A. problems.

**Hershey, Pennsylvania, as a Recreation Area**—Hershey, Pennsylvania, the home of Hershey chocolate and cocoa products, is now a year-round public resort and recreation center as well as a "chocolate town." Hershey Park of 1,000 acres contains the largest private zoo in the United States, according to the October 20th issue of "Travel and Recreation" issued by the United States Travel Bureau, and includes the Hershey museum, a series of outdoor swimming pools, picnic grounds, and a sports arena seating 7,200 for hockey games, ice carnivals, roller skating, circuses, basketball, and other sports. From November to March hockey games draw an average of 7,000 persons nightly, and many thousands attend the frequent ice carnivals, shows, rodeos, and college football games. Horseback riding is also a favorite sport. Hershey has four excellent golf courses and its rose garden, opened in 1937, has more than 20,000 plants of over 400 varieties.

**Juvenile Collectors**—An exhibit of scientific collections was arranged by the Recreation Building on Treasure Island at the San Francisco World's Fair so that children who collect specimens might have an opportunity to display them. Small exhibits prepared by boys or girls with genuine interest in the subject were just as acceptable as elaborate ones. The four types exhibited were: miniature gardens; leaf prints and flower collections; rocks, minerals, and shell collections; collections of insects, reptiles, and rodents. From *The Junior Naturalist*, San Francisco Recreation Department.

**Courses in Dramatics, Music and Folk Dancing Announced**—From 7:30 until 9:30 on Monday and Thursday evenings during the month of February, 1940, courses in dramatics, music, and folk dancing will be given at the Manhattan Girl Scouts' headquarters, 670 Lexington Avenue, New York City, under the sponsorship of Girl Scouts, Inc., Region 2, the National Board of the Y.W.C.A., and the Girls' Friendly Society of the U.S.A. Mr. A. D. Zanzig of the National Recreation Association will be associated with the group. Dramatics will include impromptu dramatics, play making, pantomime, dramatized ballads, choral

speech, radio technique, the approach to the formal play, and selection of material. In the music course topics will cover fundamentals of song leading, the learning of a number of songs for various group occasions, the use of source material, the informal approach to part singing, the correlation of music with dramatics, and introduction to music appreciation. The folk dancing course will offer singing and play party games, folk dances from many nations, and practice in their direction. Subjects will be presented informally, and students will have opportunity for practical experience in each field.

**Safe Riding**—A bicycle safety campaign in Norwich, Connecticut, last summer won the active support of city police, Boy Scout leaders, newspapers, and officials of the Lions Clubs which sponsored the drive. More than 250 applications for registration were received, and inspections were conducted at all city playgrounds. Each boy received printed instructions telling him how to keep his bike in a safe condition by regular attention. Registration included a full description of the bicycle and owner, and a pledge to observe all safety rules. From *The Lion*.

**The Fee Question at Public Parks**—Should officials charge fees for the use of conveniences furnished to the public in park recreational areas? Some feel that privileges should be partially paid by those using the parks; these funds should then be used for improvements. Others feel that conveniences should be free, that the expense of their administration should be borne by the taxpayers. The National Park Service recently completed a nation-wide survey which reveals that the income from fees and charges represents only nine per cent of the total funds available for park expenditures. In some instances, charges are regarded as a necessary means of control of certain facilities and services. Many park administrators hold that these areas should be without charge with the possible exception of fees for accommodation and facilities such as dressing rooms at bathing beaches.

**The Community Players of Houston**—A new venture in Houston, Texas, last summer was



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a series of six plays presented during a six weeks' period by the Community Players in the air-conditioned lounge of the Lamar Hotel. The lounge, the use of which was given by the hotel, can accommodate a hundred spectators. Miss Margo Jones, director of the Community Players for the past few years, was in charge. A large part of the audience was made up of hotel guests who paid an admission charge of one dollar. A similar project will be undertaken during the coming year in addition to the regular performances given by the group at the Recreation Department's playhouse.

**A New Periodical**—The New York City Civil Service Commission announces the publication of a new periodical, the *Public Personnel Quarterly*, which will contain original articles concerned with practical phases of public personnel administration and will also present digests of significant books, monographs, and journal and magazine articles. Further information may be secured from Norman J. Powell, Civil Service Commission, 299 Broadway, New York City.

**Recreational Travel in the United States—** Tourist travel to all the units of the Federal park system in the travel year ended September 30, 1939, amounted to fifteen and a half million persons, according to the October 20th issue of "Travel and Recreation," issued by the United States Travel Bureau. Travel to the 25 national parks accounted for 6,804,216 of the traveling total, an increase of nearly a quarter of a million persons, or 3½ per cent over the 1938 figures. Travel to the 63 national monuments of the system which made a report also increased from 2,313,630 in 1938 to 2,566,452 in 1939, while it declined to national historical parks, battlefield sites, national military parks, and miscellaneous areas. Travel to the Boulder Dam national recreational area in Nevada and Arizona increased from 564,800 to 611,895.

The East has only three of the nation's twenty-five great scenic national parks—Acadia in Maine, Shenandoah in Virginia, and the Great Smokies in North Carolina and Tennessee. Nevertheless the East led the West in national park and monument travel

in 1939. Travel totals show 8,701,759 visitors to 44 parks, monuments, historic sites and other units in the East, as against 6,752,608 to 75 western areas.

**Intramurals—**To correlate the work of the Physical Education and the Recreation Departments, and to give an opportunity to many children to enjoy class or team competition in sports and games, an intramural program is planned for thirty-five schools in one city. Mass participation, interesting the timid children and the ones not skillful enough to be selected on the various school, class or neighborhood teams, are some of the main objectives.

**Cultural Centers for Rural England—***The School Government Chronicle and Education Review*, London, England, commenting editorially on the development of cultural centers in rural areas, says: "The suggestion that the senior school in rural areas should become a cultural center for the countryside was advanced by Mr. Kenneth Lindsay when he said: 'Today we must begin to think not only

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in terms of the village with its school, church, and "pub," but also in terms of new local areas represented by groups of villages. But there must be living contacts between the countryman and the area school. We must reinterpret local conditions without sacrificing local loyalties. The coming of the senior school in the countryside, with adequate gardens, workshops, and domestic science rooms, is creating a new rural unit. In some counties it has already become the cultural center for a new area of the countryside. Properly conceived and staffed, its effect is to retain the best of the past and help rebuild Merrie England."

**Michigan's New Recreation Area**—South-eastern Michigan, through the development of the Huron-Clinton Parkway Project, will have one of the largest recreation systems in the world when the project becomes a reality, according to the *Ann Arbor News*. Skirted by a scenic parkway, following the Huron and Clinton Rivers for eighty miles, the recreation area will compose approximately 40,000 acres of park land. Bathing beaches and youth hostels, superhighways and bridle paths, public picnic grounds and private cottages, nature museums and wild life sanctuaries will all be included in this recreation system. A number of cities are now beginning to take the necessary steps to prevent pollution in the Huron River, and in addition a number of cities have acquired river front park sites.

**Recreation Facilities in Tennessee**—In the brief period of five years, thousands of acres of land unsuitable for agriculture have been purchased and developed for recreational use. The mountains, rivers, forests, valleys, climate, and scenery that have been Tennessee's for many years are now appearing in a new light; they are being made to serve better the people of Tennessee. Until recent years little thought had been given to the immense resources that were lying dormant in Tennessee.—From statement by Tennessee State Planning Commission.

**Child Labor Day—1940**—Child Labor Day will be observed on January 27-29, 1940. The National Child Labor Committee urges that there be no relaxation of effort to rally public sentiment against the exploitation of children.

## For Your Arts and Crafts Program

**B**ECAUSE of the keen interest in handcraft as a part of the recreation program we are listing some of the free and inexpensive material now available.

### A Guide in Arts and Crafts

An opportunity to secure an exceedingly practical and helpful mimeographed booklet of almost a hundred pages has been made possible through the courtesy of Recreation Project, Work Projects Administration for the City of New York. This booklet, *A Guide in Arts and Crafts*, prepared by Marguerite Ickis, author of *Nature in Recreation*, is profusely illustrated and contains three sections. The first deals with Tools for the Craft Room and here Miss Ickis suggests the absolutely essential tools for groups of sixteen and the crafts which may be undertaken with these tools. In Section II she discusses Introductory Crafts—Low Cost Articles, and in Section III, Advanced Craft Projects. Many diagrams and illustrations are used.

As long as the supply lasts individuals connected with recreational groups may secure a copy free on request by writing the Recreation Project of WPA at 107 Washington Street, New York City. In requesting copies it is important for individuals to specify their connection with recreational agencies.

### Inexpensive Bulletins

The following inexpensive bulletins are available from the National Recreation Association:

Arts and Crafts Book List .....	\$10
Arts and Crafts Material .....	15
Clay Modeling .....	10
Craft Projects That Can Be Made with Inexpensive and Discarded Materials .....	15
Cylinder Weaving .....	05
Directions for Making an Etched German Silver Bracelet .....	10
A Folding Table for Table Tennis with Directions for Construction .....	10
Fun-to-Make Favors .....	15
How to Make and Play a Shepherd Pipe .....	35
How to Make Marionettes .....	20
An Indian Bonnet .....	15
Inexpensive Puppets .....	10
Make Your Own Christmas Tree Ornaments .....	10
Manufacturers and Distributors of Craft Supplies and Equipment (Partial Listing) .....	10
An Outline Guide in Arts and Crafts Activities at Different Age Levels .....	10
Shadow Puppets—Their Construction, Operation and Stage .....	10
Weaving with Simple Equipment .....	05

The Committee states that while the child labor provisions of the Federal Wages and Hours Act are excellent, they apply only to industries shipping goods across state lines and they cannot reach more than a small fraction of the children who were at work before the act went into effect. It is estimated that fully 500,000 child workers under sixteen years of age are still at work in intrastate industries and in industrialized agriculture.

Suggested programs for the observance of Child Labor Day may be secured from the National Child Labor Committee, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York City. The Committee will be glad to assist any group in planning a Child Labor program.

**A Play Center Restored**—Through the co-operation of the Hermes Club, which raised the necessary funds by sponsoring a theater attraction last winter, the McLaren Playground in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, was put into operation again last summer. Members of the club and the executive of the Playground and Recreation Commission, J. J. Syme, took part in the ceremonies held at the reopening of the ground.

**Nevada City Initiates a Recreation Program**—Nevada City, California, is a community of about 3,000 people whose chief occupation is mining. In April of this year a coordinating council was organized to take action regarding the juvenile delinquency problem which was becoming urgent. It was suggested that a recreation program be organized for the summer, and steps were taken immediately to do this. A full-time director was appointed who had at his disposal for the program a swimming pool, a softball diamond, a tennis court, and a community center. Among the program activities which he conducted were a weekly bonfire, a twilight softball league, swimming meets and swimming instruction, tournaments, boys' clubs, handicraft, nature study, social dancing, and dance instruction.

**Film Strips Available**—The Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., announces the availability of 325 series of film strips on such subjects as soil conservation, farm forestry,

home economics, adult and junior extension work, and rural electrification. The prices for these film strips until June 30, 1940 will range from 50 to 70 cents each. Lecture notes are provided for each strip except for those which are self-explanatory. Further information may be secured from the Department of Agriculture.

### The Dover Community School

*(Continued from page 539)*

with the social and recreational activities of the social room.

#### Other Facilities

In the high school building are provided the shops and laboratories for carpentry, auto-mechanics, agriculture, and home economics. Here adults may expand their hobbies or secure solutions for many of their economic problems. A visual education room makes provision for the movies. A large library has been planned for community as well as pupil use. The broadcasting of school and community affairs to any of the networks has been planned, and this community school feels that it will serve an additional function as it broadcasts the public relations' work of the various departments of the state government. The girls' gymnasium included in this building has already been used for exhibits and is available for the use of women as well as the girls of the school.

In the elementary school building classrooms have been arranged with library alcoves and activity spaces. A large game and special activities room, with a platform, has also been included in this building.

The site lies adjacent to St. Jones' River. Down among the trees along the river an open-air theater has been planned. Flower gardens and a fish hatchery will offer enrichment to the curriculum as well as opportunity for hobbies. Tennis courts and an athletic field provide for organized play and a large area to the east of the elementary school has been especially reserved for play purposes for the elementary school.

Dover's investment in this community school was approximately \$250,000. A PWA grant of \$200,000 supplemented this amount. Under the leadership of Superintendent E. Hall Downes,

President Howard E. Lynch, Jr., and the other members of the Board of Education, Dover's community school may be expected to contribute significantly to fine democratic living.

### Recreation and the National Morale.

*(Continued from page 546)*

Recreational facilities and opportunities for social recreation are the outstanding need of rural America. Good roads, the automobile, rural electrification and the radio have done much to break down the physical isolation of rural populations. Social isolation is still the normal rather than the exceptional situation for most communities.

Development of programs for the use of the rural and consolidated schools as community centers are therefore of prime importance, and should be in a prominent place on any Federal or State program.

Although the Federal Security Agency itself does not have primary responsibility for recreation activities in the Federal Government, all of the units of the Agency have a real stake in the pattern of a national recreation program, both historically in terms of work done and in the future in terms of interest and possibilities for help. The NYA and the CCC have already played a large part in improving and extending our national parks and forests. The Office of Education and the Public Health Service have helped in furnishing educational material to leisure time classes. The program administered by the Social Security Board gives increasing testimony for the need for more constructive attention to recreation programs for those groups of our population which it serves, especially the old people and the handicapped. Cooperation between welfare agencies and recreational agencies on the State and local levels offers a fine field for joint planning.

The provision of opportunity for the creative use of leisure time is certainly a matter of public interest and concern. The Federal, State and local administrations have rightfully assumed some responsibility for the provision of recreational opportunities. Recreation is of as much public concern as education. The Federal Government has its sphere of responsibility. In providing assistance for equalizing opportunity in setting aside park areas, it performs functions which cannot be borne by other levels of government. The problem created by the increase of leisure time, however, is great enough so that the Government should not attempt to solve the problem alone.

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Dr. Francis L. Bacon, Principal of the Evanston, Illinois, Township High School says, "The current issue of your magazine, CHARACTER and CITIZENSHIP, came to my desk this week. I carried it home and pleasantly, I believe profitably, too, spent an evening reading the entire contents.

"Permit me to express my appreciation of the increasing value of this unique periodical. I could ardently wish that every school library possess one or more subscriptions. It would seem, too, that civics and guidance teachers might well utilize the magazine as reference material for students.

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The morale, spirit and happiness of all people is a matter of great moment to our Nation. Public federal administrators believe and work with local officials in keeping the play of children and the leisure of our people in harmony with the democratic ideal. We also believe that adequate programs of play and recreation can do much in themselves to strengthen and to advance the American Nation. We need to handle all our problems with courageous wisdom to the end that Democracy will survive, and it will, if the people of our country can participate in and enjoy the fruits of a democratic way of life. Recreation can do its share in making this possible.

### A "Tonic" for the Craft Shop

(Continued from page 548)

heavy carpet warp. This makes a shaggy tuft, and when the tufts are sewed onto the canvas one inch apart, the final effect produces an attractive "furry" rug. The chenille may be purchased in a variety of colors.

A new phase of woodcraft just being introduced is the designing on wooden plates, trays, cups and saucers and the like by wood burning. Then the lines of the design are painted and the article finally shellaced. This craft is much in favor and makes it possible to own dishes distinctly your own.

With the advent of spring, children's crafts will turn again to kites and bird houses. Just now puppets and marionettes made of papier-mache are the main attraction. Every other Saturday the youngsters enrolled in these classes entertain with a free puppet show at the public library. Other favorite children's crafts are dog baskets, doll beds and fruit baskets made from raffia and reed; finger painting; and original poster designs.

Metal tapping, too, is a craft that fills many requirements for children. The projects are practical and economical and the process so simple that it can be mastered by any boy or girl. The youngsters enrolled in our craft classes have made plaques, book ends, shields, letter holders, broom holders, tie racks, door stops, wall shelves, magazine stands and hostess trays.

Another project which we introduced for chil-

dren but which adults have found contagious is the making of wooden soled shoes. The soles are cut from white bass wood sawed out the shape of your foot. The tops are made of two strips of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " webbing with rust proof fasteners. The soles are carved or painted, or both, and the strap decorated with modern or Mexican designs. Others are made with calf skin uppers which are tooled, painted or decorated with cutout work.

New ideas to tone up your craft shop are unlimited. These are but a few suggestions which may be old to you. But we believe that most of the honorable and ancient old crafts, which are lately experiencing a renascence in interest, are here to stay, if we but offer them to the community in interesting and attractive ways.

### Ultra Modern Recreation in a Small Community

(Continued from page 552)

#### Swimming Pools

Two new swimming pools have just been completed. These two pools, one for the Mexicans and one for the Negroes, have been constructed exactly alike and placed in appropriate locations to serve their respective purposes. The pools, 40' by 60' and sloping to a 9 foot depth, are lighted for night use, and each is surrounded by a cyclone fence. Each pool has a bathhouse with open air dressing rooms. In the bathhouse proper there is ample storage space besides the ticket office and basket room. Each dressing room is equipped with dressing booths, showers, and a rest room. Negro and Mexican employees will be used at the respective pools which will be under the supervision of the Recreation Department.

Seguin moves forward in her conviction that year-round recreation in the small town is not only practicable, but is fast becoming a necessary part of any progressive community.

### Recreation for Children in a Democracy

(Continued from page 556)

Corps, Public Works Administration, the Farm Security Administration, and the United States Housing Authority.

Few people really comprehend the full effect of these programs on the leisure and recreation of the population. Even the one fact that children under the age of 16 participated in 9,263,506 hours of play and recreational activities supervised by WPA leaders during one week in February 1939 fails to register all of its ramifications.

## Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of Interest to the Recreation Worker

#### MAGAZINES

*Character and Citizenship*, October 1939

"A Guide to Vocational Reading" edited by Tracy W. Redding. A list of books covering important occupations, their background, techniques and leaders.

*Child Study*, Fall 1939

"Books of the Year for Children"

A list selected by the Children's Book Committee of the Child Study Association and arranged on an age grouping.

*Health and Physical Education*, October 1939

"Physical Education in Poland" by Howard W. Stepp  
"Dance as a Coeducational Activity" by Anne Schley Duggan, Ph.D.

"Educational Dancing" by Louis H. Chalif

"Progressive Games of Soccer Variety" by Helen Manley

*Journal of Adult Education*, October 1939

"A Discussion Group—Average Age 75" by George Lawton

*Scholastic Coach*, October 1939

"Sound Equipment for Field and Gym" by O. V. Swisher

"Seven-Team League Master Schedule" by W. B. Marquard. Factual outline of the construction of a round-robin schedule for a seven-team league to assure maximum participation.

*National Municipal Review*, September 1939

"Low-Rent Housing Builds on Sound Money" by Leon H. Keyserling

*Beach and Pool*, September 1939

"How to Prepare a Pool Appraisal" by C. M. Roos, Engineer, Supt. of the Cairo (Illinois) Water Company

#### PAMPHLETS

*Through the Arnold Arboretum*

Published by the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

*Hikes in Berks*—American Guide Series

Compiled by the Berks County Unit, Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

*1938 Yearbook, Park and Recreation Progress, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service*

Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. price \$35

*1939 Playground Manual*

City of Toledo, Department of Public Welfare, Division of Recreation

*Recreation Round Table*, June 1939

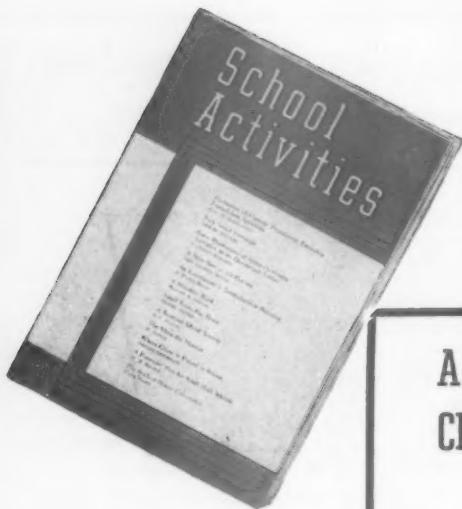
Division of Recreation, WPA, Los Angeles, California

*Educational Policies for Rural America*, July 1939

Educational Policies Commission, 1201 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, D. C.

*Legislation Affecting Community Recreation in California*

Compiled by Works Progress Administration Northern California, October 1, 1938



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# School Activities

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Two general questions seem to puzzle many people. The first is one of great uncertainty about the future—How can we do the job we are supposed to do without some federal assistance? The other feeling is one of great perplexity—Why must we local residents be subject to the ups and downs and arounds of "Washington?" Of one thing we can be sure. Uncertain and perplexed feelings must be faced and dealt with squarely and realistically. The answers cannot come from optimism or pessimism or by a simple yes or no. Part of our difficulty lies in the fact that but a handful of people have given much detailed thought to exactly what a national recreation program for children in a democracy involves.

#### Questions Before the Conference

The questions which will confront members of the Conference on Children in a Democracy arise from facts such as these, from the interpretation of these facts, and from the desire on the part of our nation to develop a play and recreation program as an integral part of the democratic way of life. Stated as simply as possible, the questions are somewhat as follows:

1. What do we need to do to make play and recreation opportunities available to all children and their families? This includes Pat who lives in Burnett County, Wisconsin, Jerry who lives in Americus, Georgia, and Mike who shells pecans in Texas.

2. What responsibility does our local government, our state government and our national government have in this field? Are the County Commissioners right when they say that play is fine for city children, but rural children don't need it? Can the Mayor close the schools and the playgrounds just by declaring that there are no funds for them?

3. What can the private agencies do and how can everyone help them do it?

4. What can be done to help children develop discrimination in their choice of movies, books, magazines and radio programs. Are Orphan Annie and Fred Allen the only alternatives?

5. What needs to be done to improve the quality of recreation and play leaders? Should we be content with the fact that because Mr. Bond is a fine healthy chap and knows how to play football

he is just the man to be playground director? Can we expect to employ leaders with college education and experience in recreation and group work for fifty or seventy-five dollars a month? It is questions such as these that come before the Conference on Children in a Democracy.

### Education Moves Out—Recreation Moves In

(Continued from page 563)

abandoned grade school buildings are being used to advantage. The National Youth Administration was urged by the Board of Recreation to open a craft shop in an unused school building for the purpose of making recreation equipment to be used by the Board. In this case the National Youth Administration appealed directly to the Board of Education for permission to use the building, and the appeal was granted on the basis that the National Youth Administration would pay an annual rental fee of one dollar and the necessary coal and light bills.

This outmoded school plant is now the scene of buzzing machinery with unemployed youth making handicraft and table tennis tables, game tables and stools, bicycle racks, bulletin boards and box hockey boxes, paddle and table tennis paddles and many other utilitarian articles. Lumber and hardware is supplied by the Board of Recreation, and the articles are used on the playgrounds and in the recreation centers.

### Sharing Facilities

In another grade school building where only five rooms are used for school purposes, the remaining three rooms are open five nights a week for recreational activities. In this particular neighborhood school building there has been a decrease in the school enrollment, consequently, not all rooms are in use during the day. The neighborhood Parents' Playground Association visualized the need for a center useful at night, and urged the Board of Education to open the place. The Board of Education supplies the light, heat and janitor service, while the Board of Recreation provides the supplies and the WPA Recreation Project sends their workers. The center is under the direct supervision of the Board of Recreation.

These abandoned school buildings are not, of course, the only centers in Reading. Many years ago, the Board of Recreation and the Board of Education worked cooperatively for the wider use of new school buildings. The old type school

(Continued on page 588)

## An Annual Winter Frolic

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, Minnesota, is a winter sports empire with all its implications. Citizens of this winter country gather each year to enjoy the county-wide celebration where they meet all friends and enjoy winter activities to their fullest as well as coming into contact with their city's winter sports friends. The activities in connection with this frolic in the beginning centered around broomball games, speed skating, hockey games, and the queen coronation pageant. Later outdoor activities, competitive events and novelty features were worked into the schedule for the frolic. In 1937 an important innovation was made. A county-wide winter sports convention was held. A year later, 1938, the second annual convention was attended by 150 delegates representing twenty regions of St. Louis County. This convention was formed into a Greater Rural St. Louis County Winter Sports Association which now sponsors local, regional and county-wide winter sports programs.

One hundred and fourteen rural communities, each with a winter sports committee, selects three delegates (one man, one woman, and one school worker) who are members of the regional board and delegates to the annual convention. Twenty regional winter sports planning boards each appoint two delegates to the county-wide planning board. The emphasis at the local, regional, and county-wide frolic especially is on mass activity and participation by all, as contrasted to limited participation by a highly specialized few. Spontaneous activity is encouraged and much to be desired. New novelty events and informal activity are introduced each year. Wood chopping contest, wood sawing contest, wooden horse competition, German band contest, parades, queen coronation pageant, and the rural community stunt program on the ice are a few of the many introduced.

To give color to the frolic a parade with torch lights and banners, as well as frolic caps, kerchiefs, arm bands and other insignia, was held preceding the coronation pageant ceremonies.

As an important part of the development of the rural frolic program, the series of numerous meetings held in the many communities of the county plays a vital part. In keeping with the plan that recreational activity must be educational to be of lasting value, the holding of these meetings is encouraged. From *Winter Sports Yearbook*, Leisure Education Department, St. Louis County Rural Schools.

## In Defense of Courting!

**C**ONSIDER the right of young people for a place to court. Where homes are large there is no problem, but where homes or apartments are small and crowded and lacking in facilities for the entertainment of friends, there must be other provision for a place to court.

The young lovers of Union County, New Jersey, have a friend in Chief Lyman L. Parks of the Union County Park Police, who has announced that parking at night in the County park system is permitted and protected. "It seems," says Chief Parks, "that the only place left for courting is in a car, and, since courting is a natural prelude to marriage, night parking is permitted in the Union County park system."

Three police cars patrol the parks and officers see to it that couples who park are protected. Chief Parks insists that two rules be observed. One is that car lights must be left on. The other is that cars can be parked only where parking is permitted in the daytime. The curfew hour is 11:00 P. M.

In "Wither Honolulu?" Lewis Mumford has expressed some of his opinions along this line. "The courtship of boys and girls in the city's streets, or in drab places on the outskirts where they may take refuge for greater privacy, is one of the most pitiable spectacles that the modern city furnishes. . . . One of the best uses to which any park may be put is obviously to serve as a harmonious meeting place for young lovers. . . . (What are needed are) public gardens and promenades that lovers will take to naturally, in preference to the sordid quarters that dishonor their every emotion. Without any ostentatious declaration of purpose, the placing and planting of neighborhood promenades may well make a positive contribution to the biological wellbeing of the community, through their direct effect upon the moods and feelings of the young."

## Education Moves Out—Recreation Moves In

(Continued from page 587)

building fills a need in sections of the city where new school buildings do not exist. In fact, many of the newer school buildings are planned for after school and evening recreation activities. This was done in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Recreation.

Education has moved out and recreation has moved in because the people want to take advantage of every facility owned by them.

## Robert Marshall

(Continued from page 564)

Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace, has announced that his department plans to name a forest recreation area for Bob Marshall in commemoration of his contribution to the maintenance of forest recreation values in our national life.

## Recreational Music

(Continued from page 569)

### Toys Test Musical Talent

Musical ability and initiative can be discovered very early in the life of a child by exposing it to a few toys that permit a certain amount of personal performance and at least a choice between related notes and mere noise. If the child likes to pick out a tune or a harmony on bells or a primitive xylophone or piano, or if it begins to take an interest in the effects of closing certain holes in a pipe, there is immediate evidence of talent, and this can be encouraged and developed as far as the parents desire, long before a music teacher is even faintly considered and without any suggestion of turning a pleasant game into an exacting task.

Somewhere in the life of every child there is a danger point which must be successfully passed by tactful parents and teachers. Why do so many things that are the games of childhood become the drudgeries of adult life? Why does the little girl who loved to play at cooking and washing dishes and mending dresses so often grow into a woman who hates all those duties in her home? How can a boy who was once a good amateur carpenter resent the thought of doing the same sort of manual work for a living, or at least contributing such odd jobs to the upkeep of his own house? Why, above all else, do so many people who played with music in their childhood lose their zest amid the formulas of "practice" and "lessons" and "exercises," and end by being bored by all except the most brilliant performances, or possibly regretful that they themselves could not stand the drudgery that was demanded of them? Perhaps our adults, as well as our children, are badly in need of a trip to Musical Toyland.

## Strengthen Your Financial Base!

(Continued from page 570)

tournaments are held, all the best players in the municipality enter. Social distinctions and bank accounts are forgotten for a time, and everybody has fun.

Of course all park and recreation bodies would like to have larger appropriations, but the Board in Winchester is inclined to believe that the town provides decently, all things considered. The Board is also of the opinion that if tennis did not make so general an appeal all up and down the economic scale, it would be much more difficult to obtain the money required for some other activities important for those in straightened circumstances. Because of the high grade of the tennis the entire public recreation system finds favor in the eyes of the rich, which means that many disagreeable financial battles need not be fought.

Recently softball teams of men who look prosperous have begun to appear. The playground commissioners are glad to welcome them. This sport is becoming classless as sport should be, and the budget foundation is further strengthened. There is nothing like spreading tax money about so that the benefit from the outlay is felt by every family in the community. Public recreation is more secure when it is broad.

Last spring, another extension was made with twilight field hockey for women and girls. This excellent team game is taught and played in the high school both interscholastically and intramurally. The limitation is the lack of carry-over. In after years few women about Boston play it except physical education teachers and society girls. The season is in the fall.

Young business women and matrons have found small opportunity for keeping up the game. The remedy is spring field hockey after daylight saving begins, the season running from the first of May to the middle of June. Here again the playground commissioners find an opportunity to extend benefits to groups who have been rather left out. The financial base of recreation is made stronger.

These illustrations may be helpful to board members in other communities where there is apprehension that a wave of parsimony may wreck the system of public recreation. Every citizen who receives a personal dividend in fun looks with greater favor on good times to be had by all.

### Trends in Public Recreation

(Continued from page 575)

to creative expression still active. Interestingly enough one of the most effective ways of satisfying this urge in adults is through activities which involve giving service to others. Here, then, is another tool that lies ready to our hand. Giving

(Continued on page 590)

### You Asked for It!

**Question.** What can be done to help mothers provide play activities which will aid in keeping children from playing in the streets?

**Answer.** In Baltimore an attempt has been made through the setting up of the Mothers' Institute to meet the urgent need to keep little children safe and happy on the sidewalks and lawns near their homes. More and more, through the playground extension work of the traveling gypsy storyteller, it has been found that children of eight and younger are not permitted by parents to cross streets or go beyond certain designated corners or alleys near their homes. The playing areas left to these children are, therefore, either the sidewalk or the street. Through this restriction, danger is reduced but it is by no means eliminated. The hazard of running into the street to retrieve balls still remains and it was thought that new street play habits and interests could eliminate this ever present danger.

The Playground Athletic League visualized groups of interested mothers all over the city, armed with a practical kit of songs, stories and games, together with the will to carry through a safe play program for the children in their neighborhoods. Invitations were sent to the Child Study Association, Federation of Women's Clubs, the Girl Scouts, the Baltimore Safety Council, Women's Civic League, Parent-Teacher groups and through the press. The Institute was launched under the slogan, "Safe on Sidewalk," an S.O.S. for children's safe sidewalk games.

Stunts, relays, races, singing games, finger plays, stories and story-plays, kindergarten games, folk dances, and suggestions for dramatic play were included in the course. One "property," however, was missing from the kit; this was the ball. Activities woven about the rope, the hop-scotch heel, bean-bag or jackstones were numerous, but the ball was taboo.

The informality of the Institute encouraged free discussion of some very real play problems. For instance, during the period given to Dramatic Play, one grandmother aroused keen interest when she told how her grandson, aged five, liked to play "school" with the neighborhood children, always giving himself the role of "teacher." The children, however, invariably ran home crying because of the severe corporal punishment meted out for some trivial or imagined offense. Following a general discussion of some possible under-

lying reasons for such behavior, the class suggested that the cure be a set of tricks to be pulled from the grandmother's "play kit" at the propitious moment. Her tricks might be: "that the clock on the kitchen wall said, 'Recess Time' or 'Time for Rehearsal of the School Play'" and "that the bean-bag was ready for a game of 'Number Toss,'" or "that 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' would make a fine story to play."

The Mothers' Institute has been conducted in the spring for the past two years and the response has been city-wide, with parents coming from practically every section. *Marguerite S. Burdick*, District Supervisor, Playground Athletic League, Baltimore, Maryland.

#### Trends in Public Recreation

(Continued from page 589)

service to others through committee work, through making things for other people and through a myriad of activities motivated by altruism, offers a guide to program planners in recreation and adult education. Again we find re-creative values fostered both by work experiences and by learning experiences.

Perhaps these verbal sketches will help you to see what is meant when I say that the task of building this recreation point of view in people of all ages is an educational task. You can see as well that it is not a task for recreation leaders to carry alone nor for school authorities to carry alone, nor for parents to carry alone. It is a task in which all must cooperate, each giving the highest type of service possible—each institution even changing the direction of its traditional approach in the interest of attaining an even more fundamental objective than the one which has long been dominant.

With the objective before us and some possible approaches to that objective briefly outlined, the most important remaining problem is that of administrative coordination of all agencies concerned. No matter how many agencies are trying to give a person the recreation point of view, their approach, to be effective, must be a unified approach. The fundamental change that we want to bring about in each individual is but a single unitary goal. *We want to develop an attitude*, and fix that attitude so strongly that it will affect his whole life.

This is an educational task. And no matter by what agency of government the task is undertaken, the approach must be made through the use of the best educational techniques that can be

devised. This requires, in my opinion, the closest possible type of coordination between educational and recreational authorities.

As a specific proposal to this end—and one with which I am in complete accord—permit me to quote a paragraph from a recent publication of the Educational Policies Commission entitled *Social Services and the Schools*. I quote:

"The Educational Policies Commission foresees the ultimate unification of all public educational activities in communities or areas of appropriate size under the leadership of a *public education authority*. Patterned after the best recreation boards and boards of education which it supersedes, this authority will be charged with the administration of a community educational program. Its powers will be derived from the state by virtue of existing state responsibility for public education. Its functions will include the provision of a broad educational and leisure-time program for persons of all ages."

The important factors in that recommendation are, first, that education and recreation would be coordinate services rendered by a single authority, and, second, that this is a step for the future—for us to work toward over a period of a generation. At no point does it suggest that boards of education, as constituted today, should "take over" public recreation. Indeed, as public recreation attains its full stature in the years to come, any loss of identity of one within the other will become literally impossible.

This proposal represents to me the logical conclusion to current trends in the relationships of recreation and the public schools.

#### Cross-Country Running in County Parks

(Continued from page 576)

The Physical Education Departments of the high schools of Union County, and especially those in the city of Elizabeth, by fostering this sport among the students have been the major factor in having the courses in the park system used so extensively.

Conclusions drawn from the experience of the Union County Park Commission would indicate that cross-country running is a sport which should be promoted by all county park departments. The cost of upkeep for such a course is small, participation in this sport is increasing, and county parks, which are usually of the larger type of park area, lend themselves most readily to the encouragement of this activity.

## New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

### Short-Time Camps

By Ella Gardner. Miscellaneous Publication No. 346. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. \$15.

THOUGH designed primarily as a manual for 4-H leaders, this practical booklet of eighty-nine pages will be of interest to camp directors and counselors at camps of all kinds. It discusses such problems as standards for facilities and their use, physical equipment, sanitation, safety, food planning and service, business management, and camp organization and conduct. Much emphasis is laid on the subject of the camp program, and many practical suggestions are offered for the various activities entering into the program.

### The Singin' Gatherin'

By Jean Thomas and Joseph A. Leeder. Silver Burdett Company, New York. Complete edition, \$2.00. Student's edition, \$1.60.

THERE HAVE BEEN many collections of song ballads and ditties from the Southern Appalachians, but in this volume there are a number which have not appeared in other books. They have been grouped according to the occasion in which they would naturally be sung, and so there are work songs, play-game songs, and hymn tunes. Melodies with piano accompaniment, descriptive notes, dance directions, illustrations, and the complete text of "The Singin' Gatherin'" festival are all included. The complete edition of *The Singin' Gatherin'* book is bound in a reproduction of homespun linsey-woolsey, with lettering which looks as though it had been written with a goose quill pen dipped in homemade elderberry ink. The student's edition, though not bound in cloth, is in a "lasty" binding of paper.

### Book Quotation Crostics and Other Puzzles

By Alice Neptune Gale. The H. W. Wilson Company, New York. \$1.35.

IN AN EFFORT to learn whether her puzzles would meet with popular approval, Mrs. Gale tried them out with pupils in the Norwood, Ohio, High School. They were so successful that this volume of Book Crostics is the result. There are forty crostics, as well as a half dozen other question-and-answer games. The correct answers are included. The Wilson Company has also printed separate copies of the crostics put up in lots of ten for 15 cents, with a minimum order of three lots.

### Intramural Sports

By Elmer D. Mitchell. A. S. Barnes & Company, New York City. \$2.00.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS, which provide opportunities aside from, as well as developing material for, varsity competition, have gained a strong foothold in schools and

colleges in recent years. This revised edition of the standard work on intramural athletics discusses the organization and relations of the department, rules, scoring, problems, program, and awards. There are numerous tables and diagrams of suggested plans of organization taken from actual experience as well as a comprehensive bibliography on the subject.

### Time Off and On

By Abbie Graham. The Womans Press, New York. \$1.00.

OUR RECOMMENDATION is that recreation workers, club leaders, teachers, and all others who live in a mad rush—and that includes practically everyone!—take enough time off to read this delightful book of random thoughts on seasons. It is a good book to read if you find yourself growing too serious. It is excellent for the "blues," and it is equally effective when you are feeling "on top of the world."

### Table Games

By Ray J. Marran. A. S. Barnes & Company, New York City. \$1.50.

BELIEVING that children can have just as much fun in making table games as in playing them, the author describes over fifty original games in detail, telling how each board is made and how each game is played. There are spinning arrow, spinning top, and numbered cube games, checkerboard games, finger snip games, and games with tiddley-winks—all illustrated with line drawings. Any child can copy the diagrams for the layouts by drawing straight lines along an ordinary ruler or curved lines and circles with the aid of a drawing compass.

### Rustic Construction

By W. Ben. Hunt. Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee. \$3.50.

AS THE AUTHOR points out in his preface, the boy or man who likes to work with tools and wood can duplicate the articles made by our hardy pioneer forefathers who built their houses, furniture, fences, and gates from material which they wrested from field and forest. Mr. Hunt tells how to make slab furniture, interior fixtures, and equipment such as shelves, candlesticks, and lamps, fences and gates, arbors, bridges, road signs, and birdhouses. The booklet is illustrated throughout with diagrams and plans.

### The Dartmouth Book of Winter Sports

Edited by Harold Putnam. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$3.00.

IF you have read this book, you will understand the enthusiasm of Dartmouth graduates and undergraduates for the Dartmouth Outing Club and its program. The book, the individual chapters of which have been prepared by members of the Club, describes the

methods which have won for Dartmouth a place of leadership in the winter sports field. It traces the development of skiing and skating in America and presents detailed instructions in these sports together with information in winter camping, mountaineering, and snow sculpture. Following sections on skiing and skating, the third section describes the famous winter carnival and its organization and tells of jaunts through foreign lands by Dartmouth's skiers.

#### Skating.

By Harold Putnam and Dwight Parkinson. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$1.00.

This book, one of the latest in the practical series of the Barnes Dollar Sports Library, is a section of *The Dartmouth Book of Winter Sports* (reviewed in this issue of *Recreation*), published separately for those interested only in skating. It contains easy-to-follow information on equipment, simple techniques of plain skating, and instructions in speed and figure skating. It is illustrated with photographs and line drawings.

#### Skiing.

By Walter Prager. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$1.00.

This new member of the Barnes Dollar Sports Library family, like its companion piece *Skating*, is a section of *The Dartmouth Book of Winter Sports*. It is a practical handbook for the beginner and also contains advanced techniques for the more experienced skier.

#### Floodlighting Plans for Sports and Recreation.

Illuminating Engineering Laboratory, General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York. Free.

Officials charged with the responsibility of developing sports areas will be interested in securing a copy of this practical booklet of plans and information on lighting sports areas. Included in it are lighting plans for swimming pools, tennis courts, badminton, baseball, softball, bowling greens, football, croquet courts, lawn recreations, shuffleboard, and other areas.

#### An Introduction to Decorative Woodwork.

By Herbert H. Grimwood and Frederick Goodyear. The Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. \$6.00.

The amateur woodcarver is often confused by the "mystery of art" surrounding design. As a guide to the beginner, in school handicraft, particularly, two experts present in this book the principles of woodcraft decoration in simple and concrete form. With the modern functional ideal in mind, they explain approach, proportion and shaping, association of woods, use of color, as well as the selection and handling of tools. Over 150 photographs of finished articles and line drawings illustrate the book. The final chapter is a discussion of future trends in woodcarving, in reference to the goals of craft educators.

#### Weather.

By Gayle Pickwell, Ph.D. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. \$3.00.

Here is a book which cannot fail to interest the nature hobbyist. Dr. Pickwell has unfolded the story of weather in vivid words and pictures without the use of scientific terms to confuse the average reader. The wind, sun, rain, hail, snow, and ice all have a share with the oceans, mountains, deserts, and lakes in telling the story of *Weather*. Not even plans for making the instruments necessary to be an amateur weather man have been omitted. An interesting chapter on "What Man Does About the Weather" has to do with folklore weather prediction and presents rules for amateur weather prediction.

#### Sing Your Way to Better Speech.

By Gertrude Walsh. E. P. Dutton and Co., New York. \$2.50.

This book is full of fun and good tunes, and yet it looks as though even the most tongue-tied, gutteral, blatty or just inane of speech would gain through it a clarity, agility and winsome rhythm and inflection in speaking that would greatly increase his value as a person, for himself as well as for other people, and also as a worker in whatever field. All the most effective kinds of drills that make for better speaking are here given in clever and often very enjoyable jingles set to familiar tunes. Our first impression was of concern for the good tunes. Are they not spoiled in our memories by being associated with these jingles? But there is a very engaging mentality in these jingles, and delightful alliterations and assonance to make any poet envious of such a chance for pleasure. There is often also jolly good sense. So the tunes seem to welcome their strange companions as though they were not strange but already very good friends, even if only temporarily together, each with its tongue in its cheek while the singer is working his to a fare-you-well.—A. D. Zanzig.

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# Can You Answer These Questions?

- What principles enter into the planning of a school to be used both for school and community functions? Mention practical considerations in planning the field house. Suggest the best method of planning the community social hall.

*See pages 539-541*

- What is the essence of true recreation? Why is the provision of well-balanced recreation an important social question? How is the federal government attempting to meet the needs?

*See pages 543-546*

- What can be done to maintain interest in a community's craft shop after the Christmas rush is over? What crafts may be introduced? Suggest locations for a community craft shop which will make it more easily available.

*See pages 547-548*

- Outline the development of a non-professional theater for children in which the actors are all adults. What should be the objectives of such a theater? How may it be supported?

*See pages 549-550*

- What forms of recreation has a recent governmental study shown to be most popular? What gains have been made in recent years? What are some of the accomplishments of the national government in the past ten years in the field of recreation?

*See pages 553-556*

- List some of the advantages of bicycling. What are its values as a co-recreational activity? What may municipalities do to make bicycling a safer sport for young and old?

*See pages 557-560*

- How may abandoned school buildings be used as community centers? What facilities may be installed?

*See page 563*

- What are the two general types of musical toys? Describe some primitive wind instruments which can be used effectively. What are some of the values of toys of a musical nature? What household articles may be transformed into musical toys?

*See pages 565-569*

- What is the basic consideration which if carefully observed will materially lighten the task of financing community recreation?

*See page 570*

- What is the fundamental trend in public recreation? What two questions should officials organizing community recreation keep in mind? Why is the coordination of recreational activities important?

*See pages 573-575*

## Freedom in Recreation

"THIS change in attitude, reflecting more general acceptance of their parks as logical centers of community life, comes close, we think, to the central core of the social values of our institutions. The parks were never intended as places in which an all-wise administration might set out to do things to the poor and lowly. The aims of the leadership which we strive to develop are not to put into effect reforms which we consider socially desirable, but rather, to make effective the forces and the ideals inhering in the people themselves, but which are frustrated and ineffective, if not entirely inoperative, until the people find the means, and the renewal of faith and inspiration, to work them out in a democratic fashion. . . . It is not to be desired that professional leaders should assume all responsibility for everything the people do in recreation. They can counsel and advise, instruct and admonish, but it is part of the desirable experience of people in either sports, arts, or hobbies, that they should assume some responsibility for the promotion of their own leisure undertakings.

"Enough has been said to indicate, we think, the direction in which continuing operation is carrying us. We are not dictating a program. We are applying, rather, to the mass service of the people the recognized principle of letting the felt needs of the community express themselves, employing leadership to guide experience into the most socially effective channels. Dealing with the enthusiasms and the energies which people delight in giving to their chosen avocations, we only try to facilitate those forces in their operation to effect a more closely knitted network of friendly acquaintance and harmonious team work in the city-wide scene." Extracts from Annual Report for Year of 1938, Recreation Division, Chicago Park District.